TURKEY. No. 3 (1905).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS

OF

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 2 (1905)."]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of South-Eastern Europe.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 2 (1905)."]

No. 1.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1905.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 20th ultimo* to His Majesty's Ambassadors at St. Petersburgh and Vienna on the subject of Macedonian affairs.

The reports which have reached His Majesty's Government since these despatches were written are even more disquieting than those which were before me when I addressed the Governments of the two Powers. The passage of armed bands across the frontier has not ceased, outrages and murders by partisans of rival sects have been of frequent occurrence, and it is not too much to say that in many districts a condition of lawlessness approaching to anarchy prevails. There is a general impression that in the spring of this year an outbreak of serious dimensions may be expected. In the meanti ne a Turkish army of over 130,000 men has for some time past been maintained in or near Macedonia, and is at this moment receiving accessions of strength, whilst upon the other side of the frontier the Bulgarian Government is completing its military preparations, and will be able, upon mobilization of its forces, to place in the field a formidable and well-equipped army numbering between 280,000 and 350,000 men.

Both Governments are known to be raising loans of considerable amount for military purposes, and specially for the purchase of artillery.

The situation seems altogether to be most precarious. There is, moreover, reason to believe that if the Revolutionary Committees have temporarily desisted from overt attempts to provoke a rising, this has been mainly due to the announcement by the Powers that they were determined to insist upon the introduction of effectual reforms, and to the belief that if the efforts made by Austria-Hungary and Russia in this direction proved unavailing, those efforts would be supplemented by the intervention of the other Powers.

A perusal of my despatch of the 20th December to His Majesty's Ambassadors at St. Petersburgh and Vienna will show your Excellency that, even if the sanguine accounts contained in the reports of the Civil Agents be accepted without reservation, but little has been achieved in the way of practical measures for effecting a permanent improvement in the administration of the disturbed districts. It is only in the case of the reform of the gendarmerie that anything can be said to have been actually accomplished in this direction, and even in this instance the measures of accomplishment has fallen far short of that which it was hoped to attain. The number of officers appointed by the Powers is still inferior to that originally contemplated as the minimum necessary, and the action of the Turkish authorities has been such as to restrict the usefulness of these officers, and to prevent them from taking a sufficient part in bringing about the improvement of the districts to which they have been assigned.

The gendarmerie scheme must, however, in any case, be regarded as ancillary to those other reforms of an administrative character which have from the first been in the contemplation of all the Powers concerned, and this was certainly the view of the

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 113.

Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments, to whose hands the other Powers confided the task of improving the administration of the Macedonian vilayets.

In confirmation of the latter statement, I may remind your Excellency that in the scheme communicated to me by the Austrian and Russian Ambassadors in February 1903, it was announced that "in order to insure the regular working of the local administration, a budget of receipts and expenditure will be drawn up for each vilayet, and the revenues of the province, which are to be checked by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, will be assigned, in the first place, to the requirements of the local administration, including the payment of the civil and military salaries." It was also announced that "the mode of the collection of the tithe will be altered, and the system of farming them out in bulk will be abolished." This scheme, designed "to put an end to the disturbances which for some time past have prevailed in the vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir," by means of "reforms calculated to ameliorate the condition of the population in these vilayets," was accepted by His Majesty's Government, and recommended to the Sultan for his acceptance, with the reservation that, "in the event of the scheme disappointing the expectations of its framers and proving inadequate as a remedy," His Majesty's Government would not be precluded from putting forward or supporting at any future time alternative proposals with the same object.

The scheme in question, known as the Vienna scheme, was found to be insufficient for the acute situation produced by the disorders which arose in the course of the spring. After the conference between Count Goluchowski and Count Lamsdorff, a supplementary scheme (usually referred to as the "Mürzsteg programme") was promulgated by the two Governments as embodying "a more effective method of control and supervision." In this scheme the two Powers undertook to demand "the reorganization of the administrative and judicial institutions, a department in which it would be desirable to give access to the Christians of the country, and to favour the development of local autonomy"; while the Ottoman Government was to be required to introduce, without any delay, the reforms mentioned in the Vienna scheme, as well as those which might subsequently seem to be necessary. These proposals also were accepted by His Majesty's Government with reservations similar to those which they had attached to their acceptance of the Vienna scheme.

It is scarcely necessary for me to point out to your Excellency the extent to which the actual performance has, in this case, disappointed the expectations of those concerned. It may no doubt be argued, nor will His Majesty's Government dispute the proposition, that time is necessary for the introduction of reforms, and that it is beyond human power to transform completely in a few months the institutions of these long neglected provinces of the Turkish Empire. It is, however, no exaggeration to say that even the fringe of those larger questions of administrative reform, to which the Powers attached so much importance, has, up to the present time, scarcely been touched. The extracts which I have quoted show how much weight was attached to the need of financial reform. That reform underlies, indeed, all other questions of administrative improvement. It is closely connected with the military situation, to which I have already referred as a most threatening element in the problem with which the Powers have to deal. The cost of the military forces maintained by the Turkish Government in Macedonia and the neighbouring Vilayet of Adrianople is believed to amount to about 3,000,000*l.* a-year, and it absorbs the whole of the available resources of the Macedonian vilayets. The presence of this large force is justified on account of the military preparations of the Bulgarian Government, which again are defended as a measure of precaution inevitable so long as Turkey keeps these large bodies of men in the field. Until this military tension is relaxed, funds will not be available either for the reorganization of the gendarmerie or for the efficient administration of justice.

This condition of things is not likely to be overcome except by the influence of pressure from without, and it seems to His Majesty's Government that the time is approaching when such pressure will have to be applied, not by one or two of the Powers, but by the whole of the Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. The responsibility incurred by the Powers who were parties to that Agreement is, no doubt, sometimes exaggerated. It cannot, however, be denied that it was in consequence of their intervention that the engagements taken by the Sultan towards Russia under the Treaty of San Stefano were replaced by those embodied in the Treaty of Berlin. Under Article XXIII of that Treaty, His Majesty pledged himself to the Powers to introduce into his European provinces laws similar to the Organic Laws of Crete, but adapted to local requirements, the introduction of which would have had the effect of conferring upon those provinces a considerable share in the administration of their own affairs. It must be admitted

that the concert of the Powers has in past years proved itself to be a somewhat slow and ineffective instrument for the purpose of bringing about administrative reforms in the provinces of the Turkish Empire, and it was therefore without reluctance that this country agreed to stand on one side when the two Powers mainly interested in the affairs of Macedonia undertook the task of improving the condition of these vilayets. It seems, however, to His Majesty's Government that the attitude of persistent and successful obstruction maintained by the Turkish Government calls for a reconsideration of this policy. His Majesty's Government fully recognize the immense difficulties with which the two Powers have had to contend. They give them full credit for what has been already accomplished, but more must evidently be done if either the wishes of Europe or the obligations of Turkey are to approach fulfilment.

His Majesty's Government therefore desire to take this opportunity of placing on record the general lines of policy upon which, in their opinion, a pacific and continuous improvement in the condition of these provinces may most easily be attained :—

(*a.*) An immediate reduction of the military forces now maintained by Turkey in Macedonia and its neighbourhood to the number strictly required for the maintenance of internal order and security, this number to be fixed for a definite period of years.

It would be reasonable to expect that Bulgaria would, in this event, be willing to carry out a simultaneous and corresponding reduction, and to enforce measures to the satisfaction of the Powers with the view of preventing the organization and equipment of insurgent bands in her own or in Turkish territory. Should it be found impossible to effect a satisfactory arrangement on this basis, the Powers might give a collective guarantee that during the specified period Bulgaria would not be allowed to occupy any portion of Turkish territory.

(*b.*) The appointment for a term of years of a Commission consisting of Delegates nominated by the Powers and placed under the presidency of the Inspector-General.

The Commission would be given administrative and executive powers, and would in the first instance be instructed to frame, without delay, schemes for the effective control of the administration of finance and justice. The financial reforms should include the commutation of the tithes, and provide for a fixed payment to the Porte by each of the Macedonian vilayets, the balance of the revenue collected remaining available for local purposes. The Inspector-General, assisted by the Commission, might be intrusted with the command of such Turkish troops as it might be found necessary to retain in Macedonia.

(*c.*) The extension of the above scheme of reforms in such a manner as to make it include some at all events of the districts, notably the Vilayet of Adrianople, to which the Mürzsteg scheme does not apply, but which were considered by the Porte to be included in the scope of the Vienna programme.

If the two Powers who have already undertaken special responsibilities in reference to the three Macedonian vilayets are prepared to put forward proposals of the kind which I have indicated in this despatch, they may count upon the loyal support of His Majesty's Government, and they may rest assured that nothing is further from our intentions than to cause them embarrassment by action which might have the appearance of being antagonistic to theirs.

Before, however, His Majesty's Government put forward these proposals officially, they would wish to be made aware of the manner in which they are regarded by the French Government, with whom it is their desire to act in concert when dealing with this most difficult and embarrassing problem.

I should wish you to take an early opportunity of speaking to M. Delcassé on the subject. You are authorized to hand to his Excellency, if he desires it, copies of this despatch and its inclosure as a confidential communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 13, 1905.

THE French Ambassador came to see me to-day, and in fulfilment of my promise I gave him a copy of my despatch to you of the 11th instant, and of my despatch to Sir F. Plunkett of the 20th ultimo.* His Excellency told me that he was leaving for Paris to-morrow, and would see M. Delcassé, to whom he had already written upon the

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 113.

subject of Macedonia, on Sunday, the 15th instant, when he hoped to discuss the situation with him.

I dwelt upon the fact that, as stated in my despatch to you, we were prepared, if necessary, to work through the two Powers, and that we had no desire in any way to embarass them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1905.

THE French Ambassador mentioned to me to-day that on Sunday, the 15th instant, which he had spent at Paris, he had spoken to M. Delcassé on the subject of my despatch to you of the 11th instant relating to the affairs of Macedonia, of which I had given him a copy. M. Delcassé had observed that, while he regarded the despatch as a useful basis for future discussions, it was obvious he could not offer an opinion upon the merits of our proposals until he had communicated with the Russian Government. Some of them were of an extremely delicate character, notably the proposal that the Powers should require Turkey to effect large reductions in the number of troops maintained by her in Macedonia and the neighbourhood.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 4.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 20, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of a *pro-memorid* submitting a scheme for financial reforms in the three Macedonian vilayets, which was presented to the Sublime Porte on the 17th instant by the Austrian and Russian Ambassadors. Baron de Calice has been good enough to furnish me with copies of these papers.

It is stated in the *pro-memorid* that the action of the two Ambassadors is based upon the reforms programme of February 1903, and upon the Mürzsteg programme of the 2nd October of the same year, which placed the execution of the reforms under the control of the Austrian and Russian Civil Agents, in collaboration with the Inspector-General of the three vilayets.

After calling attention to the well-recognized principle that no good administration nor impartiality in judicature is possible unless there is financial stability and perfect order in the employment of public moneys, the *pro-memorid* reminds the Porte that it was asserted in their Memorandum under date of the 20th January, 1904,* that the dispositions for financial reform had been applied, and that the farming of the tithe was being carried out in conformity with the decisions arrived at, but that subsequent events have proved that the assurances as to the tithe were premature, whilst the actual facts do not confirm the optimistic utterances of the Ottoman Government concerning the reorganization of the finances.

The Financial Reform Scheme submitted for the early acceptance of the Turkish Government is based upon the manipulation of the revenues of the three vilayets being entrusted to the agencies of the Ottoman Bank at Salonica, Uskub, and Monastir. It is proposed that all the revenues of the three provinces, except those managed by the Public Debt and the revenues of the Salonica Customs affected to the Customs Loan, shall pass through the hands of the Bank Agencies, who will also be responsible for all payments, including salaries, to be made on behalf of the provinces, in so far as the revenues suffice to meet such payments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

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* See "Turkey No 4 (1904)," No. 39.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Pro-Memorâ communicated by the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Ambassadors to the Ottoman Government on January 17, 1905.

LE Chapitre VII du programme de réformes de Février 1903 établit que, "pour assurer le fonctionnement régulier des institutions locales des Vilayets de Salonique, Monastir, et Uskub, les mesures suivantes doivent être introduites:—

"Au commencement de l'année un budget des revenus et des dépenses sera dressé dans chaque vilayet.

"Le produit des impôts sera destiné en premier lieu à pourvoir aux besoins de l'Administration locale, le paiement des services civil et militaire y compris."

Suit un paragraphe concernant les améliorations à apporter au système d'affermage et de perception des dîmes,—système soumis actuellement à des essais partiels de réorganisation qui devront servir de base à une réglementation générale nouvelle, après quoi le chapitre susmentionné du programme de réformes continue ainsi:—

"Tous les revenus des vilayets doivent être versés à la caisse du vilayet, tenue à l'Agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane au chef-lieu du vilayet.

"Le paiement des sommes affectées par le budget aux dépenses du vilayet se fera en conformité d'un Règlement spécial, qui aura également pour objet d'assurer la régularité de l'emploi de ces sommes."

Le programme de Mürzsteg du 2 Octobre de la même année, tout en complétant celui de Février sur certains points, tels que la réorganisation de la gendarmerie, des institutions administratives et judiciaires, le confirme explicitement à l'Article 8 sur tous les autres et place l'exécution des réformes dans leur ensemble sous le contrôle des Agents civils d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie, adjoints à l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets.

Il serait inutile d'insister ici sur l'importance de la réforme financière, qui seule est susceptible, comme le constate le programme de Février, "d'assurer le fonctionnement régulier des institutions locales." Sans stabilité budgétaire et ordre rigoureux de l'emploi des deniers publics, il n'est pas de bonne administration, ni de justice impartiale, possible.

La Sublime Porte ne fait, d'ailleurs, pas de difficulté pour reconnaître ce principe, puisque dans son Mémorandum du 20 Janvier, 1904, relatif à l'exécution des réformes, elle s'empresse de déclarer, au paragraphe 7, que "les dispositions concernant la réorganisation des finances ont également été appliquées et l'affermage des dîmes est opéré conformément à ce qui a été arrêté. Les encaissements des revenus et les dépenses sont effectués dans les trois vilayets par l'entremise des succursales de la Banque Ottomane."

Pour ce qui concerne les dîmes, on voit combien était prématurée en Février 1904 l'assurance que leur affermage est opéré suivant un système réformé, les premiers essais d'un nouveau système de perception, mentionnés au début de la présente note, ne datant que de l'automne de 1904 et son adoption définitive étant encore du domaine de l'avenir.

Les faits ne répondent pas davantage aux déclarations optimistes du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman en ce qui regarde l'encaissement des revenus et l'ordonnancement des dépenses par l'entremise des succursales de la Banque Ottomane. La Banque n'encaisse jusqu'aujourd'hui rien en dehors des revenus spécialement affectés, en vertu de l'arrangement passé entre elle et le Gouvernement Impérial le 18 Juin, 1904, pour le service de la gendarmerie. Aussi, en prenant acte de cet arrangement, conclu pour la durée d'un an seulement et ne pourvoyant par conséquent qu'au besoin le plus urgent d'une mise en œuvre de la réorganisation de la gendarmerie, les Ambassadeurs de Russie et d'Autriche-Hongrie, par leur note du 27 Juin, 1904, ont-elles déclaré à la Sublime Porte que "leurs Gouvernements sont d'accord pour accepter l'arrangement qui leur a été communiqué tel quel, ayant l'intention de proposer à la Sublime Porte certaines mesures aptes à assurer la réorganisation financière générale des trois vilayets, prévue au point 7 du programme de réformes de Février 1903, réorganisation qui devra être mise à exécution avant l'expiration du terme d'un an, auquel s'étend l'accord actuellement conclu avec la Banque Ottomane."

Les Cabinets de Vienne et Saint-Pétersbourg se sont appliqués en conséquence à l'élaboration d'un Règlement conforme aux dispositions du point 7 des réformes, c'est-à-dire, assurant aussi bien l'encaissement et le contrôle par la Banque Ottomane de toutes les recettes des trois vilayets, que la régularité de l'emploi de ces sommes, le tout sous la haute surveillance de l'Inspecteur-Général et des Agents civils.

Les soussignés Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie sont chargés par leurs Gouvernements, et ont l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte, le Règlement élaboré et ci-annexé, ne doutant pas que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, conséquent à l'esprit de ses précédentes déclarations, ne veuille prendre les mesures immédiates nécessaires à son application au prochain exercice budgétaire, lequel, réglementé de la sorte, fournira à son tour des données certaines et une base solide à l'établissement des budgets ultérieurs des trois vilayets et à leur relèvement économique.

(Signé) CALICE.
ZINOVIEW.

Constantinople, le 4 (17) *Janvier*, 1905.

(Translation.)

CHAPTER VII of the reform programme of February 1903 establishes that, "to insure the regular working of the local institutions of the Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, and Uskub, the following measures should be introduced:—

"At the beginning of the year a budget of revenue and expenditure shall be drawn up in each vilayet.

"The proceeds of the taxes shall in the first instance be destined to meet the requirements of the local Administration, including the pay of the civil and military services."

Here follows a paragraph concerning the improvements to be made in the system of farming and collecting the tithes, which system is at present undergoing partial experiments in reorganization, destined to form the basis of a general new regulation; after this the above-mentioned chapter of the reform programme continues thus:—

"All the revenues of the vilayets are to be paid into the vilayet exchequer, established at the Agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at the chief town of the vilayet.

"The payment of the sums affected by the Budget to the expenses of the vilayet is to be made in accordance with a special scheme, which will likewise aim at insuring the regular employment of these sums."

The Mürzsteg programme of the 2nd October, 1903, while it completes that of February on certain points, such as the reorganization of the gendarmerie, of the administrative and of the judicial institutions, confirms it explicitly in Article 8 on all other points, and places the execution of the reforms as a whole under the control of the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Civil Agents attached to the Staff of the Inspector-General of the three vilayets.

It would be useless here to dwell on the importance of financial reform, which is the only means, as stated in the February programme, "of insuring the regular working of local institutions." Without budgetary stability and strict order in the employment of public moneys, no good administration or impartiality of justice is possible.

The Sublime Porte, indeed, makes no difficulty about acknowledging the principle, since in its Memorandum of the 20th January, 1904, relating to the execution of the reforms, it expressly declares in paragraph 7 that "the measures of financial reform have likewise been applied, and the farming of the tithes is carried out in accordance with the decisions arrived at. The revenue is now paid in and the expenditure effected, in the three vilayets, through the medium of the branches of the Ottoman Bank."

As far as the tithes are concerned, it is evident how premature was the assurance given in February 1904 that the farming is carried on according to a reformed system, for the first experiments in a new system of collection, mentioned at the beginning of the present note, only date from the autumn of 1904, and its final adoption is still a matter of the future.

Nor do the optimistic statements of the Imperial Ottoman Government with regard to the paying in of revenue and the regulation of expenditure through the branches of the Ottoman Bank correspond more closely with the facts. The Bank up to date takes nothing beyond the revenues especially affected to the service of the gendarmerie, by reason of the arrangement made between the Bank and the Imperial Government on the 18th June, 1904. Further, in taking note of this arrangement, which is concluded for a period of only one year, and consequently only provides for the most urgent requirement of setting in motion the reorganization of the gendar-

merie, the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors, by their note of the 27th June, 1904, declared to the Sublime Porte that "their Governments concur in accepting the arrangement communicated to them as it stands, intending, as they do, to propose to the Sublime Porte certain measures calculated to insure the general financial reorganization of the three vilayets, provided for in point 7 of the reform programme of February 1903, which reorganization shall be carried into execution before the expiration of the period of one year, for which the agreement actually concluded with the Ottoman Bank extends."

The Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburgh have consequently devoted themselves to the elaboration of a scheme in accordance with the provisions of point 7 of the reforms, that is to say, insuring the payment into, and control by, the Ottoman Bank of all the receipts of the three vilayets, as well as the regular employment of these sums, the whole being under the supreme control of the Inspector-General and the Civil Agents.

The undersigned Austro-Hungarian and Russian Ambassadors are instructed by their Governments, and have the honour to communicate to the Sublime Porte the elaborated scheme which is annexed, having no doubt but that the Imperial Ottoman Government, in accordance with the spirit of its previous declarations, will be willing to take the immediate measures necessary for its application in the next Estimates, which, so regulated, will furnish in their turn clear data and a solid basis for the construction of the succeeding Budgets of the three vilayets, and for their economic reformation.

(Signed) CALICE.
ZINOVIEW.

Constantinople, 4 (17) *January*, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Projet de Règlement.

ARTICLE 1er. Les Agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane à Salonique, à Uskub, et à Monastir rempliront les fonctions de Trésorier-Payeur-Général des trois Vilayets de Salonique, de Kossovo, et de Monastir.

Elles recevront directement des Agents du Fisc, au fur et à mesure de leur perception, tous les revenus nets de ces trois vilayets, à l'exception des revenus gérés par la Dette Publique Ottomane et des recettes douanières de la direction de Salonique affectées au service de l'Emprunt des Douanes. Elles seront seules chargées du paiement de ces trois vilayets, à quelque titre et sous quelque forme que ce soit, y compris les traitements et salaires : et ce dans les limites des prévisions et des ressources budgétaires.

Art. 2. Il sera établi un budget général pour chacun des trois vilayets. Ce budget sera dressé sur les données fournies par le Gouverneur-Général de chacune de ces provinces. Il sera également établi un budget séparé pour chacune des circonscriptions (sandjiak et caza) des trois vilayets. Le budget général, ainsi que les budgets séparés de chaque circonscription, seront remis aux agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane un mois au moins avant le commencement de l'exercice financier et au plus tard le 1er (14) Février.

Le budget général de chaque vilayet ne sera définitif qu'après avoir été soumis à l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets et à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, et après avoir obtenu l'approbation des Puissances intéressées. La Banque Impériale Ottomane dressera en suite un budget général des trois vilayets; elle en remettra un nombre suffisant d'exemplaires à l'Inspecteur-Général pour lui et les Agents civils des Puissances qui lui seront adjoints.

Aucune création de ressources nouvelles, sous quelque forme que ce soit, pas plus qu'aucune dépense non prévenue dans ce budget, ne pourront être faites sans avoir obtenu l'assentiment du Gouvernement Impérial et des Puissances intéressées.

Le budget de chaque vilayet devra indiquer, pour chaque nature de recette, quelqu'en soit l'origine, la prévision du rendement pour chacune des circonscriptions, sandjiaks et cazas; il devra indiquer, pour les dépenses de diverse nature et pour chacune d'elles constituant un article de budget, le montant à payer dans le courant de l'exercice.

Le budget provincial sera visé par l'agence de la Banque, où un exemplaire restera déposé; il sera transmis aux Defterdars par les soins de l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets.

Art. 3. En dehors du budget provincial, il sera également dressé chaque année par les soins des autorités centrales du vilayet et remis par l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets à l'agence de la Banque, un budget local pour chaque sandjiak et pour chaque caza du

vilayet, indiquant en détail les recettes et les dépenses de diverse nature de chaque sandjiak ou caza.

Chaque budget local sera visé par l'agence de la Banque qui en conservera un exemplaire ; un deuxième exemplaire sera transmis par l'Inspecteur-Général aux autorités centrales du vilayet et par elles aux Mouhassebedjis dans les sandjiaks et aux Mal-Mudiris dans les cazas.

Art. 4. Les Agents du Fisc dans les sandjiaks et dans les cazas seront tenus de verser, à des dates déterminées, au fur et à mesure de leur encaissement, à l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie au chef-lieu du vilayet, par l'entremise du Defterdar, la totalité de leurs recettes quelconques, sous déduction des dépenses de perception et d'administration qu'ils auront payées. Ces dépenses seront justifiées au moyen des ordonnancements prévus par l'Article 5, et des quittances des parties prenantes. Les justifications des paiements seront produites lors d'un versement général que les Agents du Fisc auront à effectuer en fin de mois.

Chaque versement sera accompagné de bordereaux indiquant sa composition, et faisant ressortir la situation des recettes et des dépenses effectuées. Il sera annexé, en outre, au versement de fin de mois, des bordereaux récapitulatifs détaillés de toutes les opérations faites dans le courant du mois par lesdits agents, avec rappel des opérations des mois antérieurs.

Les bordereaux de versement et les bordereaux récapitulatifs mensuels seront établis en double expédition, dont l'une sera immédiatement et directement adressée à l'agence de la Banque.

La Banque Impériale Ottomane aura la faculté d'introduire d'office toutes les modifications qui, dans la pratique, lui paraîtront de nature à simplifier les écritures, à faciliter l'encaissement des revenus, et à assurer son contrôle effectif. Ces modifications seront communiquées par la Banque Impériale Ottomane à l'Inspecteur-Général, et par lui aux Agents civils ; elles devront être ponctuellement exécutées.

Il sera tenu compte, pour l'établissement des budgets futurs, des observations et propositions de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Art. 5. L'Agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie au chef-lieu de chaque vilayet ouvrira, au nom du vilayet, un compte au crédit duquel elle inscrira toutes les sommes qui lui seront versées sur les revenus de la province et au débit duquel elle inscrira tous les paiements.

Elle remettra chaque semaine, par les soins de l'Inspecteur-Général, aux autorités centrales du vilayet, un bordereau détaillé de toutes les opérations de trésorerie faites dans le courant de la semaine.

Toutes les dépenses prévues au budget devront être ordonnancées par les autorités locales du vilayet, du sandjiak, ou du caza. L'Ordonnateur devra viser l'article du budget auquel la dépense se réfère, afin d'assurer la régularité des paiements.

Les Agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane tiendront des registres spéciaux pour y passer écriture, pour ordre, des recettes et des dépenses, d'après les pièces qui leur seront remises.

Les versements effectués par le vilayet seront portés par l'Agence de la Banque au crédit du compte ouvert au vilayet, valeur du jour de la réception de ces versements à la caisse de l'Agence.

Art. 6. La Banque Impériale Ottomane soumettra à l'approbation de l'Inspecteur-Général la nomination d'Inspecteurs financiers qui devront être sujets Ottomans et dont le nombre ne dépassera pas six. Ces Inspecteurs seront chargés de contrôler l'application rigoureuse du présent Règlement d'Administration financière. Leur traitement sera inscrit au budget des trois vilayets et sera directement ordonnancé et payé par les Agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane. Leurs frais de tournée seront également inscrits au budget.

Les lettres de service de ces Inspecteurs seront conjointement signées par l'Inspecteur-Général et les Agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Art. 7. Les Inspecteurs auront à remettre leurs rapports à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, qui en enverra des copies à l'Inspecteur-Général en nombre suffisant pour lui et pour les Agents civils des Puissances qui lui sont adjoints. Elle en adressera des extraits aux autorités compétentes des vilayets, pour ce qui les concernera.

Tout fonctionnaire des finances signalé comme coupable d'abus ou d'infraction sera suspendu d'office par la Banque Impériale Ottomane, et avis en sera donné immédiatement à l'Inspecteur-Général pour toutes fins utiles.

Art. 8. La Banque Impériale Ottomane n'est responsable des paiements que jusqu'à concurrence des recettes encaissées.

Art. 9. Les clauses et conditions du présent Règlement ne touchent en rien l'acte de concession de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, qui reste intact.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 1. The agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Salonica, Uskub, and Monastir will act as Treasurer and Paymaster-General in the three Vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir.

They will receive, direct from the Treasury officials, all the net revenues of these three vilayets as they are collected, with the exception of those administered by the Ottoman Public Debt, and of the Salonica customs receipts, which are appropriated to the service of the customs loan. They alone will be intrusted with the issue of payments of whatever nature and in whatever form (including salaries and pay), such being within the Estimates and the scope of the Budget.

Art. 2. A general Budget will be prepared for each of the three vilayets. It will be based upon data furnished by the respective Governors-General. A special Budget for each administrative district (sanjak and kaza) will also be prepared. Both the general Budget and the special Budget of each district will be transmitted to the agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at least a month before the commencement of the financial year and at latest on the 1st (14th) February.

The general Budget of each vilayet will only be sanctioned after it has been submitted to the Inspector-General of the three vilayets and the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and approved by the Powers interested. The Imperial Ottoman Bank will thereupon draw up a general Budget for the three vilayets; it will furnish a sufficient supply of copies to the Inspector-General, for himself, and the Civil Agents of the Powers who are attached to him.

No fresh sources of revenue shall be created in any form, nor any expense, beyond that provided for in the Budget, incurred, without the consent of the Imperial Government and the Powers interested.

The Budget of each vilayet will indicate, in the case of each class of receipt, whatever its origin, the estimated return from each administrative district (sanjaks and kazas); it will indicate, in the case of each of the different classes of expenditure, constituting an item in the Budget, the sum to be paid during the financial year.

The provincial Budget will be endorsed by the agency of the Bank, and one copy will be deposited there; copies will be furnished to the Defterdars by the Inspector-General of the three vilayets.

Art. 3. In addition to the Budget for the vilayet, a local Budget will be prepared annually for each sanjak and kaza of the vilayet by the central authorities of the vilayet and sent by the Inspector-General of the three vilayets to the agency of the Bank. It will indicate in detail the receipts and expenditure of different kinds for each sanjak or kaza. Each local Budget will be endorsed by the agency of the Bank who will preserve a copy; a second copy will be forwarded by the Inspector-General to the central authorities of the vilayet and then to the Muhassebejis in the sanjaks and to the Malmudiris in the kazas.

Art. 4. The Treasury officials in the sanjaks and kazas will be bound to transfer to the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in the capital of the vilayet, through the medium of the Defterdar, the whole of their receipts of whatever nature. The transfers will be effected at specified dates, as the revenue is collected, after deduction of the expenses of collection and administration. These expenses will be justified by the warrants indicated in Article 5, and by the receipts of the persons paid. The vouchers for payments will be produced when the Treasury officials make their general transfer of receipts at the end of each month.

Each such transfer will be accompanied by tables showing how the sum is made up, with a statement of receipts and expenditure. The transfer at the end of the month shall also be accompanied by detailed recapitulatory statements of all the operations of the Treasury officials during the month, with a reference to the operations of the previous months.

Two copies shall be made of the transfer statements and the monthly recapitulatory statements, of which one shall be sent immediately direct to the agency of the Bank.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank will be entitled to introduce, in virtue of its office, all such modifications as in practice it considers calculated to simplify the papers, facilitate the paying in of revenue, and guarantee its effective control. These modifications will be communicated by the Imperial Ottoman Bank to the Inspector-General, and by him to the Civil Agents; they must be carefully carried out.

Note must be taken, for the preparation of future Budgets, of the observations and proposals of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Art. 5. The agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in the chief town of each vilayet will open an account in the name of the vilayet, to the credit of which it will enter all the sums paid in out of the revenues of the province, and to the debit of which it will enter all payments.

It will furnish weekly, through the Inspector-General, to the central authorities of the vilayet, a detailed statement of all the treasury operations of the week.

All the expenditure provided for in the Budget must be warranted by the local authorities of the vilayet, sanjak, or kaza respectively. The authority who signs the warrant must endorse the item of the Budget to which the expenditure refers, so as to insure the regularity of the payments.

The agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will keep special registers in which to make entries, in proper order, of the receipts and expenditure, according to the documents furnished to them.

The payments made by the vilayet will be credited by the Agency of the Bank to the vilayet account, at the rate of exchange of the day when these payments are taken by the Agency.

Art. 6. The Imperial Ottoman Bank will submit for the approval of the Inspector-General the nominations of Financial Inspectors, who must be Turkish subjects, and whose number must not exceed six. It will be the duty of these Inspectors to watch the strict carrying out of the present scheme of financial administration. Their salary will be entered on the Budget of the three vilayets, and will be warranted and paid direct by the Agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Their travelling expenses will also be entered in the Budget.

Their letters of appointment will be signed jointly by the Inspector-General and the Agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Art. 7. The Inspectors will furnish their reports to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, who will send copies to the Inspector-General in sufficient number for himself and the Civil Agents of the Powers who are attached to him. The Bank will send extracts to the proper authorities of the vilayets, so far as they are concerned.

Any financial official alleged to be guilty of abuses or of disobedience to the Regulations will be suspended by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and notice will at once be given to the Inspector-General for the necessary action.

The Bank will send extracts to the proper authorities of the vilayets, so far as they are concerned.

Art. 8. The Imperial Ottoman Bank is responsible for payments only to the amount of the sums received.

Art. 9. The clauses and conditions of the present scheme do not in any way infringe the charter of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which remains untouched.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Plunkett.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1905.

I TOLD the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to-day that we had just received an account of the new proposals which had been put forward by the two Powers for the introduction of financial reforms in Macedonia. I was glad to find that they realized the necessity of taking measures more effectual than any to which they had up to the present time resorted. His Excellency asked me whether I did not think that the new Austro-Russian proposals were a step in the right direction. I said that I certainly thought so, and welcomed them as such, but they seemed to me not to go nearly far enough towards securing a sufficient amount of financial independence for the vilayets.

The new scheme had only been communicated to me within the last few hours, and I had not been able to study it as thoroughly as it deserved, but I could not find in it anything which would prevent the Turkish Government from diverting the revenues of the Macedonian provinces to its own uses, leaving the local Administration without sufficient funds to provide improvements and remunerate its officials. His Excellency said that he felt convinced that the Austrian Government would gladly consider any suggestions which we might desire to make, and he was glad to gather from what I had said that we had no desire to tear up the Mürzsteg Programme. I replied that this was the case, and that if the two Governments themselves were prepared to do what was necessary, we would gladly support them.

No. 6.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

(Extract.) *Sophia, January* 22, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant,* I have the honour to report that the Ottoman Commissioner here has sent a note to the Bulgarian Government stating that the authorities of the Adrianople Vilayet have been instructed to arrange for the return of the 215 families (910 persons in all) enumerated in the lists recently furnished by the Bulgarian Government at the request of the Porte, and has subsequently requested twice in three days to be informed of the routes by which these people would cross the frontier.

When I saw the President of the Council this morning I asked his Excellency what interpretation he put on the concession thus made by the Porte, and whether he thought it would provide a satisfactory conclusion to the question of the emigrants. General Petroff replied that he could not profess to hope that no further difficulties would be made by the Turks. The Iradé was not unsatisfactory, so far as it went, but how many more Iradés would be wanted before the refugees reached their homes? It was obviously impossible for them to travel in the present severe weather, and yet Sadik Pasha was pressing him for a reply as to the points where they would cross the frontier, as though the Porte intended to insist on their immediate departure. The refugees were scattered about, and the Bulgarian Government could not possibly supply the information at a moment's notice. He took the note to mean that permission to return would not be granted to any but the 900 persons mentioned in it, and as there were some 3,000 refugees still in Bulgaria—of whom it was true that some 900 or 1,000 wished to remain here permanently—the real value of the concession was pretty apparent. I said that it was to be regretted that the lists presented by the Bulgarian Government had not been made exhaustive.

No. 7.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

My Lord, *Sophia, January* 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that, acting on instructions from St. Petersburgh, the Russian Agent here has urged the Bulgarian Government to use greater diligence in preventing the passage of revolutionary bands across the frontier into European Turkey. Similar communications to the Greek and Servian Governments have been made by the Russian Representatives in Athens and Belgrade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 8.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant,† respecting the capture of Greek and Bulgarian bands by Turkish troops, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting renewed activity of Greek bands in the Salonica Vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Consul-General Graves to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Salonica, January* 17, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. du Vallon's despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the seventy-three Greek members of the band captured near

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 148.

† See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 136.

Yenijé, together with their twelve Bulgarian prisoners, have been brought to Salonica, and that the judicial inquiry into the case is now in progress.

On Thursday, the 12th instant, a band of forty Greeks appeared at Zorbat, a village situated about 20 miles west of Salonica, in the Vardar Plain, where they murdered the Bulgarian village priest and a Notable named Gano. The Mudir of the district, with a small escort, is said to have been in the village at the time of this occurrence, but made no attempt to interfere. This band is said to include a number of Albanians formerly employed as watchmen, &c., in and about Vodena.

The following day, Friday, the 13th instant, a Greek band murdered two Bulgarians of Salonica, who were employed with other workmen in road building near Ouranjik, about 3 miles to the east of Salonica. No arrests have been made in connection with either of these two crimes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 9.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant respecting the Austro-Russian scheme of financial reforms for Macedonia, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica reporting a conversation which he has recently held with Hilmi Pasha, during which the Inspector-General dwelt on the importance of re-establishing the finances of the three vilayets on a sound basis, and expressed the hope that the Powers would not oppose an increase in the present Customs Tariff with a view to attaining that object.

Both the Austrian and French Ambassadors have told me, in the course of recent conversations, that they would probably not oppose the proposed increase of the customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent., provided that the increased revenue were devoted to the financial requirements of the Macedonian provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Consul-General Graves to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Salonica, January 17, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in the course of two conversations which I have had with Hilmi Pasha since my return to Salonica, his Excellency dwelt with some insistence upon the question of financial reforms.

He said that it was generally admitted that the re-establishment of the finances of Macedonia on a sound basis was a first condition of any permanent improvement, and that, up till now, owing to the heavy military charges involved by recent mobilizations, it had been impossible to balance the revenues and expenditure to the disturbed provinces. In order to escape from the vicious circle in which the Administration now found itself, it ought to dispose of a capital sum for initial expenses, which could only be obtained by raising a loan, for which some guarantee would be required. But as all the present resources of the country seemed to be already pledged for one purpose or another, the only suggestion that he could make would be that Turkey should be allowed to increase her customs revenues by the revision of the present Tariffs; and he therefore trusted that the Governments of the Powers would no longer withhold their signatures to the revised Treaties of Commerce which had been so long under discussion.

My French colleague informs me that Hilmi Pasha has used similar language to him on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 10.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 24, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to state that it would appear that the work of repatriating the Bulgarian refugees is not progressing smoothly. It was anticipated from the first that the Ottoman Government did not intend to permit all the three thousand odd refugees to return immediately. This apprehension has been verified, and I understand that only those refugees named in the lists furnished by the Bulgarian Government, about 950 persons in all, are to be allowed to return.

I represented yesterday to the Grand Vizier that this was a mistaken policy, and that it was this taking back with one hand what the other had given that made people mistrust the sincerity of the Turkish Government, and alienated from them the sympathies of those Powers who are friendly disposed towards them.

His Highness replied that the fault was not theirs, but rather that of the Bulgarian Government, because they had not furnished further lists. He said that as soon as he received information about the remaining refugees the necessary measures would be taken for their repatriation, but that the Government could not blindly admit all who wanted to come back. As it was, he added, only about 300 out of the 900 had shown a disposition to return.

This, I answered, was not to be wondered at, since the permission for their return had been delayed until the severity of the winter season made it almost impossible for them to take advantage of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 11.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 24, 1905.

I HAD the honour, in my telegram of the 19th instant,* to repeat information received from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, to the effect that the Greek population of that town had closed their shops as a protest against the permission given to the Koutso-Vlach inhabitants to open a chapel and perform the religious services in the Roumanian language, and that disorders were feared.

I yesterday asked the Grand Vizier how the matter now stands, and how it came about that permission had been given to open the chapel. I said that I was not aware that any Imperial Iradé had been issued in the sense of the recent decision of the Council of Ministers, which was, as I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant,† favourable to the Roumanian contention.

The Grand Vizier replied that troops have been sent to Monastir, and that there is no danger of the public order being seriously disturbed. His Highness added that, in consequence of the favourable finding of the Council of Ministers, the Vali of Kossovo had been told that he might permit the celebrated Vlach priest, Theodor, to open his chapel, and perform the services in the Roumanian tongue. His Highness added that pressure was being brought to bear on the Greek Patriarch to induce his Holiness to recognize the new state of things, and to raise the ban of excommunication which has been pronounced against the priest Theodor and all his followers.

I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have just received from the Acting British Consul at Monastir on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Monastir, January* 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day's date, I have the honour to report to you that, though no serious trouble seems to be anticipated from the action of the Greeks in practically closing the bazaar as a protest against the Vizierial letter, which, I understand

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 149. † See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 137.

from my Roumanian colleague, M. Georgescu, has been issued authorizing the Vlach community of this town to open the place of worship which they constructed last summer with the object of celebrating Divine service in the Vlach language, it is, of course, possible that noisy street demonstrations may occur; and as this, again, may lead to disorderly rioting, I took an opportunity of recommending to the Governor-General the need of additional precautions, especially as to-morrow—being the Greek Epiphany—a large concourse of people will, as usual, assemble to view the ceremony of casting the Cross into the water.

As regards the place of worship which has been the cause of all the trouble, M. Georgescu has carefully explained to me that, while it is a place in which all religious rites may be duly celebrated, it is, in the absence of a properly constructed altar, not a church in the orthodox sense of the word. The real question, however, is not whether the place of worship alluded to is a church or not, but whether Vlach, and not as heretofore Greek, shall be the language used in the celebration of Divine service. The above concession demanded by the Vlachs has hitherto been steadily refused by the Patriarchate, especially at Monastir, the centre of the Vlach propaganda, and the issue of the Vizierial letter above referred to is bitterly resented by the Greeks, firstly, as likely to give a powerful impetus to the cause of the Vlachs by conferring a quasi-legal right on the pretensions of the latter; and, secondly, as an unwarrantable breach of the privileges granted by successive Sultans to the Patriarchate.

As the Vlachs are determined to persist in their efforts to obtain a privilege which they consider as in no way opposed to the canons of the Orthodox Church, it is difficult to see how, if the Patriarchate continues to maintain its present uncompromising attitude, matters can be prevented from eventually coming to a schism between the two parties. In two or three centres of the vilayet the language question has, I am told, received a certain kind of solution from the fact that service is already celebrated in the Vlach language. Recently, however, the priests so officiating have been placed under a formal interdict by their superintending bishops, one of the results of which will be to raise very serious questions as to the validity of the Vlach marriages which may be celebrated by these priests; and while the Vlachs profess that they do not desire to separate from the Church in which they have been brought up, I have little doubt that this is what must happen failing some sort of arrangement between the opposing sections.

The ill-feeling with which the Greeks regard the partisans of the Vlach movement has recently found its expression in two separate attacks by some twenty young men of the former party upon a Vlach priest and a cavass attached to the inspector of Roumanian schools, both being badly beaten. Such assaults as these, in addition to their cowardly nature, can have no effect upon the ultimate issue of the struggle, and are, I am glad to be able to report, severely condemned by the more respectable members of the Greek community. It should, moreover, in fairness to the Vlachs be stated that the latter on their part have strictly refrained from prosecuting their propaganda by means of physical violence, and have further shown their prudence by consenting, at the request of the Governor-General, to postpone the opening of their place of worship until after the Greek holidays.

I should add that throughout my present report I have, as will be observed, used the words "Greeks" and "Vlachs." A more correct designation would, perhaps, be "Greco-Vlachs" and "Vlachs," as both parties belong to the same nationality, whatever that nationality may be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 12.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 24, 1905.

THE inclosure in your Lordship's despatch of the 12th instant,* respecting the treatment of Christians in the Vilayet of Adrianople, is identical with the paper to which allusion is made in my despatch of the 27th ultimo.† The Grand Vizier caused an inquiry to be made into the truth of the statement made by the Bulgarian Agent, and the reply he received was to the effect that the charges were without foundation.

I am aware that several and, I think, all the Embassies, except the French, made

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 141. † See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 125.

representations to the Porte upon the subject of the Bulgarian communication, but all have accepted the explanations offered by the Turkish Government, and it would appear to be considered generally that the report was exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 13.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 30.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting an attack, on the 17th January, by a mixed force of Turks and Greeks, on the Bulgarian village of Marventsi, in the Kaza of Doïran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Consul-General Graves to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Salonica, January 21, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th January, I have the honour to report that on the 17th instant an attack was made by a mixed band of Turks and Greeks on the Bulgarian village of Marventsi, in the Kaza of Doïran, situated near the River Vardar, about 10 miles north of Gevgeli.

The following account of the occurrence has been furnished by some of the villagers of Marventsi who have managed to escape to Salonica:—

The band, which was composed of about twenty Turks and ten Greeks, arrived at Marventsi in the morning, and, going from house to house, led forth twenty-six of the principal villagers and marched them away, saying that they were going to take them to Doïran to Mehmed Bey, the owner of the property on which the village stands. After a quarter of an hour's march they halted, formed their prisoners in line, and poured several volleys into them, killing ten on the spot and severely wounding five others, two of whom afterwards died of their wounds. The remainder were allowed to run away. The Bulgarians state that they recognized among the assailants Milé Chona, of Bogdantsi, and Anton Dimcheff, of Garchista, who were among the Greek band of seven persons captured by the Turkish troops at Bogdantsi two months ago, and afterwards released by the Gevgeli authorities. They also state that the band carried off all the valuables they found during their house-to-house search, and violated a young woman named Velika Christova.

An hour after the departure of the band, a detachment of twenty-five soldiers arrived from Valandovo. They did not attempt to follow them up, but after making some inquiries returned to Valandovo, and the following day, the Kaïmakam of Doïran, accompanied by a captain, arrived at the village and opened an official inquiry.

The neighbouring Bulgarian villages of Balentsi and Braikovtsi, fearing that they may share the fate of the Marventsi people, have sent a deputation to Salonica to ask for protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 14.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 3, 1905.*

THE French Ambassador asked me to receive him to-day, and told me that he had now obtained from M. Delcassé an account of the result of the communications which had passed between him and Count Lamsdorff in regard to the question of Macedonian reforms. Count Lamsdorff had made a statement to the following effect:

He had conferred with the Austrian Government, and the views which he expressed were theirs as well as his. The two Governments considered that the present moment was inopportune for "proposing an extension of the Mürzsteg Programme." In consultation with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, they had themselves formulated an elaborate scheme of financial reform for the Macedonian vilayets, and it was upon the introduction of financial reforms that all other reforms depended. Russia and Austria-Hungary counted upon the support and confidence of the other Powers, and would appeal to them should unforeseen events, or the proved insufficiency of their own proposals, render new arrangements inevitable.

I thanked his Excellency for this important communication, which I said it would be necessary for me to lay before my colleagues before giving him an official answer. My own feeling was, that the new scheme of financial reforms contained several questionable features. It seemed to me, for example, to impose upon the Imperial Ottoman Bank functions which it was scarcely qualified to perform. Nor could I find in it any sufficient guarantees that the financial administration of the vilayets would under it be placed in the hands of competent officials. As I understood the scheme, it left a large measure of authority in the hands of Hilmi Pasha and of two Civil Agents, neither of whom could be regarded as financial experts. They were, I understood, to be aided by six Inspectors, but these, again, were to be Turkish, and were to be approved by Hilmi. The scheme as a whole, although purporting to be a development of the Vienna and Mürzsteg Programmes, appeared to me to involve a new departure, which the other Powers could scarcely be expected to support until they had had an ample opportunity of examining the whole of the machinery which it was proposed to set up.

I promised his Excellency that I would communicate with him again as soon as I was in a position to inform him of the views of His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 15.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 6.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Mr. Shipley, Acting British Consul at Monastir, respecting the dispute between Greeks and Vlachs in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Monastir, January* 24, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that the dispute between the Greeks and Vlachs, as to the rights of the latter to open a place of worship in this town for the celebration of Divine Service in the Vlach language, which formed the subject of my despatch to you of the 18th instant, has now been definitely settled in favour of the Vlachs, the inauguration ceremony having been performed at the place of worship in question late on Sunday night last, with a strong force of soldiers in attendance.

The fact that the above affair has passed off without disturbance of any kind seems to have been due to a piece of clever management on the part of the Turkish authorities. On the previous day (Saturday) a report had spread among the Greeks that in deference to their protest the final decision in the matter had been postponed pending the receipt of further instructions from Constantinople, and as the whole of Sunday (the day fixed for the ceremony) passed off without any attempt on the part of the Vlachs to enter the building in dispute, it was concluded that the above report was correct. Their surprise, therefore, was the greater when on the following morning it became known that advantage had been taken of the night to perform the initiatory services, and that the opening of the Vlach place of worship was an accomplished fact. I may point out that, though the above plan adopted by the Turkish authorities for

extricating themselves from an embarrassing situation is not likely to render the result itself less unpalatable to the Greeks, it has nevertheless had the merit of respecting the susceptibilities of the latter as far as possible; while to the Vlachs, provided that the inauguration of their building was carried out with the proper official sanction, the particular time of such inauguration was a matter of comparative indifference.

In justice to the Greeks it should be stated that, though their protest, as was generally anticipated, proved ineffectual, it was, with the exception of the isolated attacks on the Vlach priest and cavass, for which as a community they were not responsible, conducted throughout with most praiseworthy decorum. A certain dislocation of business was inevitable, owing to the fact that their shops were closed during the greater part of last week, but apart from this there was nothing in their proceedings to which exception could be taken by their fellow-townsmen from the point of view of maintenance of public order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 16.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 6.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Mr. Satow respecting the murder of the Servian Vicar-General of Koumanova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, January 25, 1905.*

I BEG to report that, on the morning of the 15th instant, the Servian Vicar-General of Koumanova, Pope Tashko, was fired at as he was leaving the church accompanied by a deacon and a servant. Both he and the servant were seriously wounded, and have since succumbed to their wounds.

In connection with this affair three arrests have been made. The arrested parties are a former employé of the Bulgarian Metropolitan of Uskub, named Traicho; Levkoff, the director of the Bulgarian schools at Koumanova; and the Bulgarian doctor. The reason for the latter's arrest is said to be that he had been secretly attending two Bulgars wounded by Pope Tashko and his servant in attempting to defend themselves. One of these men is said to have died and to have been buried secretly.

Pope Tashko is a great loss to the Servians of Uskub, as he was a most capable and energetic man and had done much to further their interests.

This crime is of a certain importance, and deserves special notice, as it is likely to lead to reprisals. It is therefore to be feared that the Servo-Bulgarian racial conflict will break out afresh. There are some forty Servian Komitajis in the Koumanova Kaza.

Two Serbs have been murdered by Bulgarian Komitajis at Nagorichino, near Koumanova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 17.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 6, 1905.*

I SAW the Italian Chargé d'Affaires to-day, and made to him the following observations respecting the views of His Majesty's Government on the scheme of financial reforms for Macedonia presented to the Porte by the Governments of Austria-Hungary and Russia: —

His Majesty's Government had made no secret of their opinion that the intro-

duction of financial reforms was of vital necessity, and they were glad to observe that the two Powers shared their views. The scheme was, however, of a very elaborate description, and required further elucidation at several points. It was, for example, doubtful whether it did not in some particulars go beyond any proposals to which the Powers had as yet given their approval, and whether it dealt adequately with the fundamental difficulties which beset the financial situation of the country. These were mainly due to the fact that the sums available, after paying the necessary expenses of Civil Administration, were quite insufficient to make any contributions either to the Central Government or to the maintenance of so large an army as that now quartered in Macedonia. No suggestion was, however, made as to the means by which that army could be reduced.

These were some of the considerations which at once presented themselves on a first perusal of the scheme, and, in these circumstances, His Majesty's Government must necessarily for the present withhold a final judgment on its merits.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 18.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Plunkett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1905.

I HAD a few moments conversation to-day with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador upon the subject of Macedonian affairs. I communicated to him the substance of the statement which I had made to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires (see my despatch to Sir E. Egerton of the 6th instant, of which copy is inclosed herewith), and I said that, although we were in no way hostile to the scheme of the two Powers, it certainly seemed to us to be one which required very careful scrutiny. His Excellency would therefore, I felt sure, not be surprised at our desiring to withhold our judgment for the present.

I mentioned to Count Mensdorff that the statement made in the scheme, to the effect that the budgets of the three vilayets should be submitted for the approbation of the "Puissances intéressées," and that their consent should be necessary for the creation of any fresh source of revenue and for any fresh item of expenditure, had attracted a good deal of attention, and that some doubt had been expressed whether the words referred to the two Powers only, or to other Powers as well. His Excellency said that he had only just received the text of the scheme and that he had not noticed the passage, but even if the words referred only to the two Powers, it seemed to him clear that they would act as mandatories of the others.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 19.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 9.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 3, 1905.

IN the course of conversation with me at his weekly reception yesterday, Mr. Skouzès, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, remarked that, although the winter had brought the usual partial respite, still the attacks of Bulgarian bands upon Greek villages were continuing to a disheartening extent. The latest aggression of which he had information was that of the band of a certain Argyri, which, after harrying Mravintsa, a village north of Gritsitsa, retired to Smol, whither it was pursued by Turkish troops, from whom it succeeded in making its escape, after killing four and wounding five of them.

I asked his Excellency if he knew anything about Karalivanos, a Greek band leader whose capture I had recently seen reported in the papers. He said he was a local man who had organized defence against the Bulgarians, and that he and his band stood on a very different footing from them, firstly, in the smallness of their numbers; secondly, in their being local men; and thirdly, in their confining themselves to the defensive, and doing nothing against the authority of the Turks.

The following is the newspaper account of the affair:—"Karalivanos and six of his

men were discovered by Turkish gendarmerie and followed to Cazani, of which two were natives, who went to their homes, while the other five went to a house, which was surrounded and the men captured, with one exception. On being questioned by the Kaïmakam Karalivanos declared that he thought it his duty to protect his countrymen against Bulgarian brigands, by whom they were being massacred without receiving assistance or protection from the Turks. Nine other inhabitants of Cazani were arrested and taken to Monastir with the band."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 20.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir C. Hardinge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1905.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day on his return from St. Petersburgh, and told me that he had been instructed by Count Lamsdorff to speak to me upon the subject of the new scheme of Macedonian reforms which had been put forward by the two Powers.

Count Lamsdorff wished me to know that he had never regarded the Mürzsteg programme as in any sense a final one, and that he shared with us the view that financial reforms were indispensable if any real improvement was to take place in the condition of the country. In proposing the new scheme the two Powers regarded themselves as still exercising the "mandate" given to them by the other Powers, and Count Lamsdorff hoped that time would be given to them to develop their own proposals. He trusted that in doing this they would receive the support of His Majesty's Government, and he would welcome any suggestions which we might be disposed to offer.

His Excellency went on to say that if any improvement was to take place in the administration of Macedonia more money would be necessary, and that Russia was prepared, in order to obtain the necessary funds, to agree to an increase of the customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent. It would be necessary to provide some guarantees that the money thus raised should not be diverted to other services.

I told his Excellency that we had no desire at the present moment to publish the fact that we had formulated proposals of our own. On the other hand, the new scheme of the two Powers had not been submitted to us by them, and we desired to suspend our judgment upon it, but we welcomed it as an indication that they were convinced of the necessity of dealing with the question of finance. With regard to the proposed increase of the customs duties, I asked whether it would apply to the whole customs revenues of Turkey, or only to those collected at Salonica. His Excellency was unable to answer my question. I said that even if the increase applied to the whole of the Turkish Customs the additional revenue thus derived would not, unless I was mistaken, exceed 600,000*l.* or 700,000*l.*, but any increase of the customs duties raised questions of considerable difficulty, and I doubted whether the Powers concerned were likely to agree to it without conditions.

I am, &c
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 21.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord, *Sophia, January* 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that I learn from the Austro-Hungarian Agent that he has made representations to the Bulgarian Government pointing out that the presence of Bulgarian Komitajis in Macedonia, whether for the purpose of inciting the population to revolution or with the object of fighting the Greek and Servian bands, was rendering the efforts of Austria-Hungary and Russia infinitely difficult, if not impossible, and urging on General Petroff the imperative obligation incumbent on the Bulgarian Government to prevent, by every means in their power, the entry of the bands into Turkey from this country. His Excellency replied, as Baron von Braun informs me, in the following sense:—His Government was doing all in its power, and if

the surveillance of the frontier was not as effective as could be wished, the blame rested, not with the Bulgarians, but with the Turkish guards, who never made the smallest effort to keep any watch at night, but retired into their blockhouses at sunset and would not move out again on any account till the next morning. The Bulgarian Government tried to keep in close enough touch with the Komitaji leaders in Bulgaria, to get notice of the intentions of the bands, but the practice of the Komitajis to pass at night either singly or in very small groups and without arms rendered the task of the Bulgarian Government, good as their information might be, exceedingly difficult, especially as they received practically no assistance from the Turks. The wooded and mountainous nature of the country along the frontier made it very easy for men well acquainted with the region to move about unnoticed at night, and the Bulgarian Government could not maintain a sufficiently close cordon to stop and examine every one. His Excellency denied that anything in the nature of collecting funds for revolutionary purposes by extortion was taking place, or that the Bulgarian Commercial Agents in Macedonia gave any sort of assistance or encouragement to the Komitajis, and assured Baron von Braun that the most stringent precautions had been taken to prevent soldiers of the Bulgarian army deserting with their arms and joining the insurgents, as had occurred in one or two cases recently. He declined to admit that the attitude of his Government could have been more correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 22.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting seizures of arms and ammunition at that port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Consul-General Graves to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Salonica, January 26, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the 24th and 25th instant, further seizures of arms were effected by the Salonica police under the following circumstances:—

A house in the "Yassi Yolou" (Hippodrome quarter), in which a Greek subject named Zissi, who is sub-manager of the Bank of Mitylene, rents a room, was raided by the police on the 24th instant, and about 200 revolvers of the Greek army pattern were seized, together with 7,500 Gras rifle cartridges and over 4,000 revolver cartridges. Yesterday, in consequence of further information received by the police, the goods depôt of the Bank of Mitylene, situated in the "Ishtira" quarter, was also searched, and several cases of Gras rifles and ammunition were seized.

In Greek circles it is declared that M. Zissi was ignorant of the presence of these arms, which were deposited by Jews engaged in the smuggling trade without his knowledge. But the Turkish authorities are evidently of opinion that this is a fresh case of introducing arms by Greek agencies for the use of the Greek bands which are now being organized to combat the Bulgarian revolutionaries in the interior. No arrests have so far been made in connection with this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 23.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 6, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting the calling out of the Ilavés in the Cavalla district and the dispatch of military forces to Monastir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Consul-General Graves to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that at Cavalla the 4th Battalion of Second Class Redifs (former Ilavés) was called out about the 24th ultimo, and it is believed that other battalions of this force are about to be embodied.

On the evening of the 2nd instant three special trains of fifty-nine carriages arrived from Constantinople and were sent forward to Monastir. They carried a large quantity of war material and ammunition, besides 102 officers. I hear that orders have been given to prepare three more trains to carry war material to Monastir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 24.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, a Summary of encounters and crimes of a political nature which His Majesty's Consul at Uskub reports having taken place in the Vilayet of Uskub since last December.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Summary of Crimes committed in the Uskub District since December 1904.

AT Radibush an encounter took place between a Bulgarian band and Turkish troops, resulting in a loss to the latter of one man killed and two officers and three men wounded. A Bulgarian woman and child were found dead in a house, but it is not known how they lost their lives.

At Chaoushkeni (Koumanova) a Bulgar was assassinated by Moslems.

At Bigla (Kochama) a woman, and at Brezuilza (Uskub) Andrea Stozan were murdered.

At Vranitza and Rogachevo (Kalhandelen) the village priests were wounded by Albanians.

At Sopishta, Miltché Athanas was killed.

At Ragovintza, Yoran Pekushi was murdered by Moslems.

At Ovah an encounter between Turks and Komitajis resulted in the deaths of two of the former and four of the latter.

At Konia, Nazif Kihaya was killed.

At Belimbeg one Bulgar was killed and one wounded.

At Radovintza a Captain was shot.

At Kalkandelen a Servian policeman was wounded by a Bulgar.

At Yeni Bazar two Moslem outlaws were killed and two wounded by troops.

Mr. Satow reports that, in the course of December 1904, forty-six alleged Komitajis were arrested. He also states that arms are said to be coming in from Servia, and that the Mutessarif of Pristina, who sent to Preshoor to investigate, has reported the number of troops in that region to be insufficient.

Constantinople, February 7, 1905.

No. 25.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1905.

THE Turkish Ambassador made to me to-day a statement to the following effect:—

The most serious obstacle to the equilibrium of the Budget of the Empire was incontestably the want of elasticity which characterized its revenues. But it was especially at the present moment, when the working of the financial system in the three provinces of Roumelia was to be assured, that this obstacle became of the highest importance. The special Budget which the Imperial Government were preparing for the above-mentioned vilayets showed a deficit, which they were prepared to meet from the general revenues in so far as the latter afforded a sufficient margin. The Imperial Government found it imperatively necessary to procure the resources required for this purpose by raising the scale of the customs duties from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent., pending, of course, the conclusion of new Commercial Treaties. Failing such an increase, which would fall not on the trader but on the consumer, the Government did not know where to raise the funds which they must obtain owing to the increase of expenditure occasioned by the reforms. His Majesty's Government were too much interested in the success of these reforms not to be willing to co-operate with the Imperial Government in this matter also. It would be all the easier for His Majesty's Government to do so, as the Porte, on their side, taking into serious consideration the principal *desiderata* which had been put forward in connection with the Commercial Treaty, had just appointed a Commission to revise the Regulations on chemical analyses, and were, further, about to make certain modifications in the new Mining Regulations. In these circumstances, the Turkish Government considered that they were entitled to count not only on His Majesty's Government agreeing to the proposed increase of the customs duties, but also on their support with the other Governments, in order that the unanimous consent of the Powers might be obtained.

I told his Excellency that the proposal of the Turkish Government to increase its customs duties seemed to me to be one to which His Majesty's Government could not assent without the most careful consideration. I understood that the increase was proposed with the object of supplying funds for the purpose of providing for the introduction of improved administration in the three vilayets of Macedonia. His Excellency would remember that the question of increasing the customs duties had been discussed on former occasions, and that His Majesty's Government had always made it clear that their consent was not to be expected unless certain reasonable demands which they had made were complied with by the Turkish Government. But apart from the satisfaction of these, I should like to know what guarantees would be forthcoming that the proceeds of the increased taxes would go to the vilayets. What security would there be that they would not be applied by the Turkish Government to other uses?

His Excellency observed that some of it would no doubt fall to the share of the Turkish Government, but that enough would be left to provide for the requirements of Macedonia.

I replied that to the best of my belief an extra 3 per cent. duty all over the Turkish Empire would not produce more than about 750,000*l.* a-year, and I gathered from what his Excellency had just said that only a portion of this sum was to be available for Macedonia.

I promised his Excellency that I would send him a written reply to his communication when it had been further considered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 26.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 18.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February* 14, 1905.

IT would appear that the Ottoman Commissioner in fixing at 215 the total number of families of refugees from the Vilayet of Adrianople who would be permitted to return to their homes was acting without instructions from his Government, for I learn from the Secretary of the Commissioner, who called on me yesterday, that a list of about 300 families furnished by the Bulgarian Government has been accepted subject to examination, and that as soon as the weather permits these people will start on their way home. Salih Bey said further that they would be allowed to cross the frontier at three points only, but he could not tell me what places had been selected for the purpose. The process of repatriation would necessarily be somewhat slow, as the Turkish authorities intended to send an escort with each batch of refugees to protect them from possible molestation on the part of the Komitajis, who, he alleged, had on more than one occasion last summer attacked parties of returning Bulgars and had then accused the Moslems of the crime.

In view of the considerations which I had the honour to submit to your Lordship in my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I believe that the extended permission now granted by the Porte will cover all the Adrianople refugees still left in Bulgaria who wish to return, and there seems to be a fair prospect that, with a little good-will on both sides, one at least of the causes of complaint between Bulgaria and Turkey will shortly disappear.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 27.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1905.

BOTH the Austrian and the Russian Embassies have recently pressed the Porte for an answer to their communication of the 17th ultimo, but so far none has been made.

Having heard from the Italian Ambassador that the Grand Vizier had told him that the Ottoman Government proposed to increase the customs duties from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent. in order to meet the deficit on the Macedonian Budget, I yesterday asked his Highness what foundation there was for the rumour that had reached me. I pointed out that it seemed to me strange that I should have heard of such a proposal from a third party, as it appeared to me that the Turkish Government would have been well advised to broach the subject first of all with the Representative of the country that furnished 60 per cent. of the foreign trade of the Empire. I reminded his Highness that His Majesty's Government had refused to reopen the negotiations for a commercial Treaty until certain questions at issue had been settled, and I said that I could hardly suppose that they would be prepared to accept an increase of the customs duties which was to be sprung upon them in such an unceremonious manner.

Ferid Pasha explained that it was not intended to put the increase forward as a demand, but merely as a proposal. We shall be better able to judge of this when the actual note is received, but my information is that an attempt will be made to put it into effective force without discussion.

The Grand Vizier represented that the expenses in connection with the Macedonian vilayets had been largely increased in consequence of the reforms that had been introduced, and on behalf of the large military force that Turkey was obliged to maintain in the provinces for the suppression of the rival bands that waged a perpetual war against each other. He instanced as a reason why commerce should be prepared to pay the higher rate that 16 per cent is paid in Bulgaria. His Highness further contended that the conditions made to the reopening of the negotiation for a commercial Treaty had been fulfilled or were about to be fulfilled, in the repeal of the

Mining Regulations, and the transfer of the Board of Analysis to a more convenient place. He said that the proposed increase would just about cover the deficit on the Macedonian Budget, as it was calculated that it would produce from £ T. 600,000 to £ T. 700,000 per annum.

I replied that it seemed to me scarcely fair in any case to expect the foreign commerce of the entire Empire to find the funds necessary for restoring order in Macedonia, a state of things for which the Turkish Government, and not the peaceful trader, was responsible. Moreover, the past history of Turkey did not inspire one with confidence that the increased revenue would be really devoted to such good purpose as his Highness represented. If 16 per cent. was paid in Bulgaria, it was paid on the strength of Treaties, and I had no doubt that foreign trade received an adequate return in good harbour accommodation and port conveniences, which were entirely wanting in many parts of Turkey, and called forth constant and bitter complaints. I did not deny, I said, that foreign trade should contribute towards the expenses of the State, but at least it was entitled to get something for its money, and it was no fault of the foreign merchant if the Turkish Customs only returned about 2,500,000*l.* per annum to the Exchequer, when under capable management they would probably produce twice as much at the present rate of duty. If Turkey, I said, wished to raise the customs duty, she should at least take immediate steps for the improvement of her ports, and for the custom-house accommodation at them, the present arrangements at such places as Beyrout, Smyrna, and Mersina, to cite only two or three cases that crossed my mind at the moment, being ludicrously deficient, and such as caused immense damage to merchandize and loss of time to trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 28.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 20, 1905.

I HAVE received the following telegram of the 19th February from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica :—

"On the 16th instant troops attacked a Bulgarian band at Kuklitch, near Strumnitza, burning forty-five houses. Some of the inhabitants perished in the flames, including women and children. Representatives of the Civil Agents and Russian Adjoint have gone to investigate affair. It is alleged by the Bulgarians that Bashi-Bozouks took part in the operations, pillaging the village and violating women."

According to the Grand Vizier, no women or children perished in the flames, and it was not, as supposed, Bashi-Bozouks, but brigands from Strumnitza, who pillaged the village after the troops had left.

The matter is being thoroughly inquired into.

No. 29.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1905.

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day the substance of a telegram from his Government, which was to the following effect :—

It appeared that the chiefs of the various Bulgarian Committees, among whom there had hitherto existed dissensions and a certain amount of rivalry, were now united. Thus Kertchikoff,* Gantcheff, Morjeff, Gheurdje, Petroff, Arsalpetreff, Bassoff, Déliyouvan, Tatarjeff, Maloff, the partisans of Sarafoff and Colonel Yancoff, Mihalovski, Stoyanoff, the partisans of General Tsontcheff and those affiliated to Groueff were in complete agreement.

They were determined to renew and combine their efforts to spread disorder, and had chosen as the centres of their activity the towns of Uskub, Salonica, Monastir, Adrianople, Serres, and Ishtib. Six zones had been formed, each of which was to

* See No. 53.

elect a Delegate. These six Delegates would take the direction of all the Committees. It was supposed that the Bulgarian Government would give their approval to the new organization, under certain conditions, and several of the chiefs of Committees made no secret of the fact they were receiving assistance from that source.

The object in view was to create a state of things which would bring about the establishment of a Government in the three provinces combined with the Vilayet of Adrianople. To attain this end the Committees would begin, in the spring, to commit acts of brigandage and crimes of all kinds, not so much in order to incite the inhabitants to rebellion and revolt as to show the Great Powers and public opinion that the Turkish Government were unable to re-establish order and tranquillity, in spite of all their efforts and the effective co-operation of the Civil Agents and foreign officers. General Tsontcheff, Colonel Yancoff, and Lieutenant-Colonel Nicoloff were already preparing to send bands shortly into the mountains of the Perim Dagh.

The telegram concluded with a statement that these reports deserved the serious attention of His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 30.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 16, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant respecting the proposal to raise the Turkish customs duties from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent. in connection with Macedonian financial reform, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a telegram from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Turkish Ambassador in Rome instructing him to inform the Italian Government of the intentions of the Porte in this respect.

I understand that a similar telegram has been sent to all the Turkish Representatives abroad, and that only in the case of Austria and Russia has a more direct appeal been made to the good offices of the Governments as being the Powers directly interested in the reforms of the three vilayets.

It would appear that this counter-proposal is to be in lieu of an answer to the Austro-Russian communication of the 17th ultimo, of which a copy was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of the 20th January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Tewfik Pasha to the Turkish Ambassador at Rome.

(Télégraphique.) *Le* 13 *Février*, 1905.

VOTRE Excellence sait que le manque d'élasticité qui caractérise nos revenus constitue toujours le plus sérieux obstacle à l'équilibre du Budget de l'Empire, mais c'est surtout en ce moment où le service financier doit être assuré dans les trois provinces de la Roumélie que cet obstacle devient de la plus haute importance.

En effet, le Budget spécial que nous préparons pour lesdits vilayets accuse un déficit que nous sommes disposés à combler sur nos revenus généraux en tant qu'ils offriraient une marge suffisante. C'est dans ce but que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est trouvé dans l'impérieuse nécessité de chercher les ressources nécessaires dans la majoration du taux des droits de douane, lequel serait porté de 8 pour cent à 11 pour cent en attendant, naturellement, la conclusion des nouveaux Traités de Commerce, car, à défaut d'une telle augmentation, qui, d'ailleurs, frappera non pas le commerce, mais le consommateur, il ne saurait où opérer les prélèvements indispensables au surcroit de dépenses que nous occasionnent les réformes.

Nous sommes persuadés que l'adhésion du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité nous est acquise et nous aurions à espérer qu'appréciant l'opportunité et la légitimité de notre but, il ne nous refusera pas son concours même auprès

des autres Gouvernements afin que nous obtenions l'assentiment unanime des Puissances.

Je vous prie donc d'intervenir auprès du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères dans ce sens et de nous communiquer le résultat de vos démarches le plus tôt possible.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *February* 13, 1905.

YOUR Excellency is aware that the lack of elasticity which characterizes our revenues always constitutes the most serious obstacle to the balancing of the Budget of the Empire, but it is above all at the present juncture, when the financial arrangements in the three vilayets of Roumelia have to be secured, that this obstacle becomes of the most serious importance.

In fact the special Budget which we are preparing for the said vilayets shows a deficit which we are disposed to charge to our general revenues, in so far as they offer a sufficient margin. It is with this object that the Imperial Government find themselves absolutely compelled to seek the necessary resources in an increase of the rate of the customs duties, which would be raised from 8 to 11 per cent., pending, of course, the conclusion of the new Commercial Treaties, for, in default of such an increase, which will, moreover, not affect trade, but the consumer, the Imperial Government would not know whence to raise the funds which are indispensable in order to meet the increased expenditure caused to them by the reforms.

We are convinced that the adhesion of the Government to which you are accredited is assured to us, and we trust that they will appreciate the expediency and legitimacy of our object, they will not refuse us their good offices, even with the other Governments, in order that we may obtain the unanimous consent of the Powers.

I request you, therefore, to approach the Minister for Foreign Affairs in this sense, and to communicate to us as soon as possible the result of your action.

No. 31.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Plunkett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1905.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador spoke to me to-day upon the subject of the Turkish proposal that the Powers should agree to an increase of the customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent., in order to enable the Turkish Government to meet the expense of improved administration in Macedonia. His Excellency said that the Austro-Hungarian Government had certainly not given an unconditional approval to this proposal. They had, on the contrary, pointed out that it would require examination, and that they would be obliged to confer with the other Powers in regard to it. His Excellency expressed a desire to know how the matter was viewed by His Majesty's Government.

I told his Excellency that it had been mentioned to me by Musurus Pasha last week, and that I had at once told him that it was improbable that His Majesty's Government would allow their commerce to be subjected to this additional impost until they were fully satisfied that the Turkish Government were prepared to comply with certain conditions. It would, for example, be necessary that we should be satisfied that the produce of the increased taxes would not be diverted to other purposes by the Turkish Government, and that security would be given for its strict appropriation to the requirements of the vilayets. I had also reminded his Excellency that, whenever the question of an increase of the customs duties had been mooted, we had made it clear to the Turkish Government that our consent would not be forthcoming unless certain demands which we had repeatedly put forward in the interests of British commerce were first complied with.

I told Count Mensdorff that it was my intention to send Musurus Pasha a note, in which our views upon the subject would be fully explained, and I added that it would give me great pleasure to make his Excellency aware of the substance of the note, which was at this moment being drafted. His Excellency expressed great satisfaction at my statement.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 32.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1905.

THE French Minister asked me to-day whether I had received a proposal from the Turkish Government for the increase of the Turkish customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent. in order to provide funds for improved administration in Macedonia. I answered M. Geoffray in the same terms as those in which I had already answered the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, as recorded in my despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, of this day's date, of which copy is herewith inclosed.* I added that it would give me much pleasure to communicate to the French Ambassador the substance of my reply to Musurus Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1905.

THE Italian Ambassador questioned me to-day as to the intentions of His Majesty's Government with regard to the proposal of the Turkish Government that the Turkish customs duties should be increased from 8 to 11 per cent. in order to meet the expense of improved administration in Macedonia. I informed his Excellency of my recent conversations with Musurus Pasha upon this subject, and I made a statement to him following closely the lines of that which I had made earlier in the afternoon to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, as recorded in my despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, of this day's date, of which copy is herewith inclosed.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 34.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 26, 1905.

FINANCIAL reforms for Macedonia.

A counter scheme to that put forward by Austria and Russia has been elaborated by the Turkish Government. Manager of Ottoman Bank, to which it has been submitted, and which would under it be charged with payment of salaries, &c., is of opinion that scheme offers promise of satisfactory settlement of financial situation if properly applied.

Scheme will be discussed to-day at the Council of Ministers, and there is a desire to hurry it through so that it may come into force on the 14th March, the Turkish financial year commencing on that day.

No. 35.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 27.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February* 20, 1905.

IN our conversation this morning, General Petroff told me that the mention of the Macedonian question in so prominent a position in the King's Speech had produced a most excellent effect throughout Bulgaria, and was hailed as evidence that His Majesty's Government are prepared to insist on reforms of a more radical nature than those of the Vienna or Mürzsteg schemes.

He himself, however, was not quite clear whether the last sentence meant that England was consulting with the other Powers concerned on the general question of

* No. 31.

reform, or merely on the financial schemes lately presented to the Porte by the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Embassies, and on my remarking that I took the former to be intended, he said he was glad to think it was so, for, indispensable as proper financial administration is, the restoration of order was an essential condition, and this, as he had told the Austro-Hungarian Agent, the Mürzsteg programme, as applied by the two Powers, had utterly failed to effect. He did not anticipate any general insurrectionary movement this spring—in fact, the leaders of the "Organisation Intérieure" had decided against it—but the conflict between Patriarchists and Exarchists could not fail to continue so long as the Turks were suffered to foster it by the active encouragement they gave to the former.

His Excellency cited cases of the favour shown to members of Greek bands who, though taken with arms in their hands, had been set free after a mock trial, and of the partiality displayed in questions relating to the possession of Church property. At Gorno Brodi, for instance, where there were two churches, the larger had been handed over to the Patriarchists, who numbered only fifty families out of a total of some 800, while the 750 Exarchist families had to content themselves with the smaller building, and even this had subsequently been closed against them. In many villages where there might be perhaps only one or two Patriarchist households the church was invariably handed over to them, and in the face of such injustice it could not be wondered at if the Exarchists took their own means to be rid of their favoured neighbours.

By such means the quarrel was kept alive, although both parties were perfectly willing to accept a just compromise if only the Turkish authorities would allow it. General Petroff expatiated at great length on the importance of rigid impartiality being exercised in these questions, which he declared would be welcomed equally by Patriarchists and Exarchists.

The Firman of 1870 which created the Exarchate contained adequate provision for the purpose, and he earnestly hoped that the Powers would insist on its being carried into effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 36.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 21, 1905.*

THE Roumanian Minister, who has just returned from a six weeks' leave of absence, called upon me this afternoon.

M. Lahovary represented to me that it is very desirable that the Koutso-Vlach question should be settled as soon as possible, as the favourable decision given by the Council of Ministers grants practically all the privileges sought for, but no effective action can be taken until the Sultan has issued an Iradé approving the finding of the Council.

M. Lahovary tells me that the Koutso-Vlach inhabitants of Macedonia have now their churches and schools, and seek only similar treatment to that accorded to the Bulgarians and other nationalities, namely, to be officially recognized as communities and to have the right to send their own Delegates to the Provincial Councils, on which at present they must be represented by Greeks. He is of opinion that the ecclesiastical difficulties with the Patriarchate stand a much better chance of being settled satisfactorily when once their political status is established.

I understand that renewed representations in support of the Koutso-Vlachs have been recently made by the other Embassies, and I therefore propose to take an early opportunity to point out to the Palace that it is desirable that the Sultan should issue the Iradé and settle this long-pending question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No. 37.

Sir J. Kennedy to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 27.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 21, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Dimitroff, the Bulgarian Agent here, recently assured me that a modification of the powers enjoyed by the Greek Bishops in Macedonia would certainly remove one of the chief causes of hostility between the various nationalities of the above district.

Under the existing system, according to M. Dimitroff, all Bishops in European Turkey receive their "berat," or exequatur, from the Porte. The "berat" is prepared at the Patriarchate, and gives the Bishop complete authority over all Christians in his diocese, but no right to recognize any Church or language other than the Patriarchist or Orthodox Greek.

M. Dimitroff asserts that the present system of obtaining "berats" for each Bishop is cumbrous, and affords pretexts to the Porte for delay, and for playing off one nationality against the other.

In answer to my inquiry, M. Dimitroff said that a change might be effected in the text of the "berat," so as to give the Bishops authority only over those who wished to be Patriarchists, whereby those desiring to pray and study in their own language would not be exposed to be anathematized. M. Dimitroff added that a simple Iradé from the Sultan would give independence to the various Christian nationalities in ecclesiastical matters.

The above proposition appears to me to be fraught with difficulties in its application, but it evidently would, if realized, favour the aspirations of the Bulgarians, and produce great ferment amongst all Greeks, whether residents of Macedonia or of the Kingdom of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. KENNEDY.

No. 38.

Memorandum communicated by Count Mensdorff, February 27, 1905.*

AINSI que l'expérience l'a démontré, l'application des réformes prévues dans le programme de Mürzsteg aux branches de l'Administration de la Macédoine exige des dépenses, auxquelles les ressources des Vilayets de Salonique, Monastir, et d'Uskub ne sauraient suffire, vu surtout le chiffre élevé des troupes Ottomanes entretenues dans ces parages.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman vient de déclarer que le budget en préparation pour les dits Vilayets accuse un déficit, et que, pour parer à cet inconvénient, il se trouve dans l'impérieuse nécessité de chercher les ressources nécessaires dans la majoration du taux des droits d'entrée perçus dans les Douanes Turques, lequel serait porté de 8 à 11 pour cent *ad valorem.*

Pénétrés de la nécessité d'écarter tout ce qui tendrait à entraver l'application des réformes qu'ils considèrent comme une garantie contre le retour des troubles en Macédoine, les Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie seraient disposés à appuyer la proposition, ci-dessus exposée, du Gouvernement Ottoman, à la condition que l'excédent des revenus douaniers qui serait le résultat de la majoration du taux des droits de la douane soit affecté en juste mesure à l'amélioration des différentes branches de l'Administration de la Macédoine, ainsi que d'autres besoins non moins urgents, tels que l'allocation de secours aux Chrétiens qui ont subis des pertes durant les troubles. Dans cet ordre d'idées les Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie seraient d'avis que l'assentiment des Puissances respectives à la proposition, ci-dessus exposée, du Gouvernement Ottoman fût subordonné aux conditions suivantes:—

1. Que le projet du Règlement financier qui a été remis à la Sublime Porte par les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie à la date du 4 (17) Janvier dernier, et dont des copies ont été transmises aux Représentants des autres Puissances Européennes, soit adopté par la Porte;

* Identic Memorandum communicated by Count Benckendorff.

2. Que le Gouvernement Ottoman prenne vis-à-vis des Puissances l'engagement de prélever sur l'excédent des revenus douaniers les sommes nécessaires pour assurer le fonctionnement des institutions locales de la Macédoine, ainsi que pour l'indemnisation de la population Chrétienne des pertes qu'elle a subies ; et

3. Que le Gouvernement Ottoman s'engage à procéder sans retard à la revision du Règlement douanier Ottoman à l'effet de supprimer les dispositions qui ont été reconnues par les Puissances comme nuisibles aux intérêts du commerce étranger.

Les Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie se font un devoir de soumettre les considérations ci-dessus exposées à la connaissance des Puissances, et ils se plaisent à espérer que le Gouvernement Anglais voudra bien prêter son concours à une solution satisfaisante des questions ayant trait à la réforme financière de la Macédoine.

(Translation.)

AS experience has shown, the application of the reforms, provided for in the Mürzsteg programme, to the branches of the Administration of Macedonia, necessitates expenses, for which the resources of the Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, and Uskub would not be sufficient, especially in view of the large number of Ottoman troops maintained in those parts.

The Ottoman Government have just declared that the Budget being prepared for the said vilayets shows a deficit, and that, to avoid this inconvenience, they find it absolutely necessary to seek the necessary resources in an increase of the rate of import duties levied in the Turkish Customs, which would be raised from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Realizing the necessity of removing everything tending to impede the application of the reforms, which they consider as a guarantee against the recurrence of the troubles in Macedonia, the Governments of Austria-Hungary and Russia would be disposed to support the proposal of the Ottoman Government explained above, on the condition that the surplus of the customs revenues resulting from the increase of the rate of the customs duties should be appropriated in proper proportion for the improvement of the different branches of the Administration of Macedonia, as well as for other needs no less urgent, such as the grant of assistance to Christians who have suffered losses during the disturbances. With these considerations in view, the Governments of Austria-Hungary and of Russia would consider that the consent of the respective Powers to the proposal of the Ottoman Government explained above should be subject to the following conditions :—

1. That the scheme of financial arrangements handed to the Sublime Porte by the Ambassadors of Austria-Hungary and Russia under date of the 4th (17th) January ultimo, copies of which have been sent to the Representatives of the other European Powers, should be adopted by the Porte ;

2. That the Ottoman Government give an undertaking to the Powers to raise from the surplus of the customs revenues the sums necessary to insure the working of the local institutions of Macedonia, as well as to compensate the Christian population for the losses they have sustained ; and

3. That the Ottoman Government undertake to proceed without delay to the revision of the Ottoman Customs Règulations, with the object of suppressing the provisions recognized by the Powers as prejudicial to the interests of foreign commerce.

The Governments of Austria-Hungary and Russia consider it their duty to submit the above considerations to the Powers, and they hope that the British Government will lend their support to a satisfactory solution of the questions connected with the financial reform of Macedonia.

No. 39.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Musurus Pasha.**

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1905.

YOU laid before me on the 15th instant a proposal from the Sublime Porte that, in order to meet the deficit in the Budget which had been prepared for the three Macedonian vilayets, the customs duties of the Ottoman Empire should be

* Communicated to Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Representatives.

increased from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent. *ad valorem*. You were instructed to recommend this proposal to the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government, upon the ground that they were too much interested in the success of these reforms not to be willing to co-operate with the Imperial Government in facilitating them.

I did not hesitate to inform your Excellency that this proposal was one to which His Majesty's Government could not assent without the most careful consideration, and I indicated briefly some of the points in regard to which we should require further explanations. I have since laid your communication before my colleagues, and I am able to make you more fully aware of the manner in which they regard it.

It is unnecessary for me to assure your Excellency that His Majesty's Government are deeply convinced that drastic measures of reform are necessary in the European Provinces of Turkey, and they have more than once stated that the establishment of the finances of the three vilayets on a sound basis is a necessary preliminary to further progress. Your Excellency may therefore rest assured that His Majesty's Government have no intention of offering needless opposition to any well-considered measure which may be put forward with the object of placing the finances of the vilayets in a satisfactory condition.

The proposals laid before me by your Excellency are, however, of a kind to which His Majesty's Government cannot assent, even in principle, without explanations fuller than any which have yet been vouchsafed as to their character, and as to the circumstances under which they are advanced. Until such explanations have been afforded, His Majesty's Government can scarcely be expected to assent to changes in the Customs Tariff imposing an additional burden upon British trade, which, as your Excellency will remember, amounts to no less than 60 per cent. of the foreign trade of the Turkish Empire.

Among the points which require elucidation I may mention the following:—

Your Excellency was good enough to inform me that the special Budget which the Imperial Government are preparing for the three vilayets shows a deficit which is to be met from general revenues in so far as these afford a sufficient margin for the purpose. This deficit is, I understand, estimated by the Inspector-General at £ T. 800,000, and it seems to His Majesty's Government that they are, in the circumstances, entitled to be informed of the basis upon which the calculations of the Porte have been made, of the estimated revenue and expenditure of the three vilayets, of the amount of the deficit, and of the extent to which it is proposed to meet it from general revenues. It will be necessary to show that the Budget has been prepared with due regard to the real needs of the Administration, and that while provision has been made for the payment of adequate salaries to the officials, care will be taken to prevent unnecessary expenditure and to insure the proper collection and application of the local revenue. Without information of this kind it is impossible for His Majesty's Government to accept as a point of departure the results shown by the local Budget. Nor again is it possible to form a judgment as to the financial situation until it has been ascertained whether the expenditure incurred in maintaining the large military forces at present employed in Macedonia cannot be confined within more reasonable limits. His Majesty's Government regard this question as one of primary importance.

Irrespective of these considerations, it seems to His Majesty's Government essential that before an increase of the existing Tariff is sanctioned by the Powers it should be established to their satisfaction that that Tariff is enforced in such a manner as to secure to the Turkish Government the full advantage accruing from the honest and efficient collection of the duties to which foreign imports are already liable. His Majesty's Government are far from satisfied that this is at present the case. The amount now received by the Turkish Exchequer from this source is believed to be less than 2,000,000*l.*, a sum far below that which would be produced if the whole yield of the duties found its way to the Turkish Treasury without other deductions than those which are obligatory and inevitable.

I take note of your Excellency's statement that the Porte has appointed a Commission to revise the Regulations as to the chemical analysis of certain imports, and that they are about to introduce modifications in the Mining Regulations. His Majesty's Government attach great importance to these questions, which are amongst those on which frequent representations have been made to the Turkish Government.

It has been more than once my duty to inform your Excellency that in no circumstances would His Majesty's Government be able to entertain proposals for the augmentation of the Tariff unless certain abuses connected with it, under which

the trade of the British Empire has for a long time suffered, were effectually redressed. Amongst other questions of this kind are the necessity of an improvement of the Turkish custom-house accommodation, the condition of which it is at present, particularly in the ports of Beyrout, Salonica, Mersina, and Basra, of a nature which can only be described as scandalous, and the questions of light dues, sanitary dues, and quarantine. These demands have, unfortunately, not received the attention to which they were entitled, and it would in any circumstances be the duty of His Majesty's Government to insist upon compliance with them. It will therefore be absolutely necessary to satisfy His Majesty's Government that, in any new arrangement which may be adopted, adequate provision is made for the removal of these abuses.

Assuming the above questions to have been satisfactorily disposed of, and a case to have been made out for raising the duties, it will be necessary to determine under adequate guarantees the portion of the additional yield which is to be devoted to those administrative reforms for the sake of which the increase is demanded. His Majesty's Government are advised that the proceeds of the additional duties will probably amount to 750,000*l.* per annum. Of this sum it is understood that 25 per cent., or 187,500*l.*, must, under the "Décret-Annexe" of 1903 be applied to the reduction of debt, the remaining 75 per cent. being payable to the Turkish Government. There would thus remain only about 560,000*l.* for the needs of Macedonia. As, however, the annual deficit for the three vilayets is estimated at 800,000*l.*, it is to be feared that this contribution will be altogether insufficient to establish financial equilibrium. It seems in any case indispensable that there should be a definite assignment of the proceeds of the increased duties—after payment of the obligatory 25 per cent. to the Public Debt Administration—to some competent authority intrusted with the collection and control not only of these funds, but of the local revenues which they are intended to supplement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 40.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1905.

THE press state that perquisitions are being made in villages by Turkish soldiers, who are alleged to be making domiciliary visits and employing torture and provocative methods.

I should be glad if you would report the facts, and you might suggest to the Ottoman Government that, as a means of protection against charges of this kind, the gendarmerie, under the supervision of European officers, might undertake the search for and arrest of suspected persons. In the alternative of troops being employed, you might point out that it would be well for European officers to be present.

No. 41.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 28, 1905

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th January last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on the trial of the murderers of the Servian Vicar-General of Koumanova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, February* 22, 1905.

I BEG to report that the trial of the eight persons implicated in the murder of Pop Tashko, of Koumanova, reported in my despatch of the 25th ultimo, was concluded to-day before the Extraordinary Court now constituted to try this and other crimes of a political nature. The following sentences were imposed :—

Sazdo, Yuvan, Denko — Death.

Ilia, Director of Bulgarian school; Traicho, clerk at Despotkhané; Spiro, church servant; Denko — Five years' penal servitude, as accessories before the fact.

The Bulgarian doctor, accused of having tended one of the wounded without informing the authorities, was acquitted.

This Extraordinary Court, which, inasmuch as it supersede the ordinary Tribunals, results in the existence of a species of state of martial law, is constituted as follows :—

President : Vehbi Bey, President of criminal section of Court of Appeal.

Members (six) : two members of the criminal section of Court of Appeal ; two members of civil section of Court of Appeal ; two members of Administrative Council of vilayet.

The reason for its creation is, according to the Vali, to avoid the delays which of necessity occur when cases are brought before the ordinary Tribunals. Its findings are without appeal.

The Vali seemed to think that the death sentences would probably be commuted to penal servitude. The general impression locally is, however, that they will be carried out as a warning.

No. 42.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1905.

THE Turkish Ambassador made to me to-day a statement to the following effect :—

The Sublime Porte had received from the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople copy of a communication which had been addressed by their Governments to the four Great Powers, inviting them to agree to the proposals made by the Turkish Government with regard to the increase of the customs duties on the following conditions :—

Firstly, that the draft financial scheme proposed for the three vilayets should be accepted ;

Secondly, that the necessary sums should be raised from the excess customs receipts to insure the regular working of local institutions, and provide indemnities for losses suffered by the Christians ; and

Thirdly, that the Customs Regulations should be revised, with a view to the suppression of such provisions as were injurious to the interests of foreign commerce.

The first condition had already been satisfied by a special arrangement concluded with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which was to come into force from the 14th instant. Its text had already been communicated to the Ambassadors.

This arrangement answered all requirements without infringing the principles which the Imperial Government had always maintained, and which the Powers themselves had ever made a point of respecting.

As regards the second condition, the raising of funds for the officials of the local institutions was provided for in Article 12 of the Arrangement.

As for indemnities for the losses suffered by Christians, the Turkish Government had already granted them all kinds of assistance and facilities. In addition to the sum of 60,000*l.* devoted to this purpose, they had been supplied with wood for building and other materials in considerable quantities to reconstruct their houses and buildings which had been destroyed during the disorders. But it was not fair that the Imperial

Government should be called upon to defray, for an indefinite period, the damage done daily by revolutionaries who came mainly from abroad. All that the Imperial authorities could do, in their care for the peaceable inhabitants, would be to continue to render aid and assistance to such victims as had not received sufficient help to reconstruct their houses which had been burnt.

Finally, as regards the third condition, the Turkish Government were determined to provide every facility for customs operations, and would not fail to examine the means of satisfying such complaints on behalf of foreign commerce as were recognized to be well founded.

It was indispensable that the Sublime Porte should obtain the assent of His Majesty's Government to their proposal respecting the increase in the customs duties before the 14th instant, as the arrangement arrived at with the Imperial Ottoman Bank was to come into force on that date.

I told his Excellency that for the present I could only state that it was absolutely impossible for His Majesty's Government to announce before the 14th instant its decision in regard to the proposal of the Turkish Government that the Customs Tariff should be increased by 3 per cent. The proposal was one surrounded with difficulty, and I had already made his Excellency aware of some of the points upon which His Majesty's Government would require to be satisfied before their assent could be given. It was obvious that such questions could not be disposed of in the course of a week.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 43.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1905.

I HAVE received Mr. Townley's despatch of the 21st ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Roumanian Minister at Constantinople relative to the question of the Koutso-Vlachs.

I approve Mr. Townley's proposal that an early representation should be addressed to the Palace with a view to the issue of an Imperial Iradé for the settlement of this long-pending question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 44.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, reporting on an encounter which took place at Kriveni between three Bulgarian revolutionaries and a Turkish detachment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Monastir, February* 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that three Bulgarian revolutionary leaders named Ghiortché Krsteff, otherwise known as the Voivode Ghéro, Krsté Kaltcheff, and Ivantché Traitcheff respectively, were on the 16th instant surrounded by a detachment of Turkish troops and gendarmerie in the house of a certain Nedan Petroff, in the village of Kriveni, in the Nahie of Resna. The desperate nature of the combat which ensued may be estimated from the fact that though it ended ultimately in the death of all the three above-mentioned revolutionaries, this result was not obtained until no less than six of the detachment, including a corporal of gendarmerie, had been killed, and several others wounded.

If the statements subsequently made by the inhabitants of Kriveni are correct, the soldiers would, on this occasion, appear to have been guilty of a certain wanton destruction of property. Four houses, including that of Nedan Petroff, are alleged to have been burned, while, in addition to much indiscriminate plundering, two of the villagers are said to have been killed, and three, among whom one woman, wounded. I have, as has also my Austrian colleague, requested the Governor-General, Hazim Bey, to cause a strict inquiry to be made into the above allegations, for while it is quite possible that an encounter of the nature described above may have unavoidably entailed the loss of lives other than those of the actual combatants, there can be no justification for excesses such as those complained of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 45.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 6, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th August, 1904,* respecting the reformed system of collecting the tithes in Macedonia, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from the Acting British Consul at Monastir.

The new method of collection in the area where it has been experimentally adopted seems to have proved a marked success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Monastir, February* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Graves of the 1st August, 1904, on the subject of the introduction into this vilayet of a reform in the method of collecting the tithes, I have the honour to report to you that it is now possible to state that the result of the experiment, so far as it has gone, is of a most encouraging nature, the payments due by the villagers to the Government under the new system having, I have been informed, both by the Representatives of the Public Debt at Monastir and by the Governor-General Hazim Bey, been effected on the whole with most praiseworthy punctuality.

The number of villages allowed to participate in the benefits of the system in question was eventually increased to thirty, representing on the basis of the annual average yield of the tithes during the past five years—a commutation value in English currency of some 6,642*l.* Of this amount some 5,689*l.* had up to the 15th January last been paid in by the villagers, thus leaving only about 15 per cent. outstanding. Even this comparatively small deficit, it was pointed out to me by the Governor-General, would have probably been much less had it not been for the exceptional severity of the winter we are now experiencing. As it was, his Excellency added, the results could not be regarded as other than satisfactory, and he had strong hopes that the new system would during the present year be extended to the whole of the Monastir Kaza.

I subjoin a list of the thirty villages to which, as above stated, the reform has already been applied, and I would draw particular attention to the fact that in only four cases was the share payable by each individual determined by the amount of his produce, the remaining twenty-six villages having adopted the extent of the holding as a basis for the purposes of assessment.

The following few details respecting the actual working of the new scheme, which I have obtained from a gentleman who has had exceptional opportunities of making himself acquainted with the subject, may not be without interest. My informant pointed out, in the first place, that while the system of assessment on the basis of the extent of the holding was for the moment the best that could be adopted, it must, in

* See "Turkey No. 4 (1904)," No. 286.

the absence of a complete cadastral survey, be at the best regarded as being in the nature of a makeshift. Under this method, for instance, it had been found necessary to classify the land roughly into three categories, each of which of course paid a higher or lower rate of taxation, according to the greater or lesser productivity of the soil. Here, however, there was obviously already abundant material for dispute, as—to mention only one instance—the views of the appraiser of the comparative rateable value of any given holding and those of its proprietor could not always be expected to coincide.

This and other difficulties of a similar nature, however, my informant considered were by no means insuperable provided the assessment were carried out under the direction of a Commission, formed of honest and capable officials aided by the village Councils. There remained the question of the possible necessity, in case of a succession of bad seasons, of a readjustment of the amount now fixed as payable in commutation of the tithe, and with regard to this my informant was of opinion that, should such a contingency occur, the Government would in its own interest consent to the scale being lowered, so as not to ruin the peasants by obliging them to sell their cattle in order to be able to meet their obligations. On the other hand, in the event of a succession of good seasons, the peasants might reasonably be expected to submit to a readjustment in favour of the Government.

My informant concluded his remarks by stating that while the scheme so far had undoubtedly worked well, and while there could be no question as to the benefits accruing from it to the villagers, not the least of which was the advantage they now enjoyed of being able to send their produce at once to market instead of as heretofore being obliged to wait for the arrival of the tithe-farmer with his motley crowd of hangers on, an opinion as to its final chances of success must be reserved until it had been applied on a more extensive scale.

Before closing my despatch, I should not omit to mention one very serious difficulty which the new scheme is likely to encounter. I refer, namely, to the opposition from the very large class of persons interested in perpetuating the abuses practised under the old system of farming out the tithes. It is not to be expected that the very considerable gains derived in the past from this source will be abandoned by the latter without a struggle, and intrigues, I am informed, have already been set on foot with a view of preventing a further extension of the reform. If these, however, can be overcome, and if the working of the scheme be intrusted to a capable and impartial Commission, I see no reason why it should not prove of the greatest benefit, both to the Government and the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

LIST of Villages in Monastir Kaza to which reformed system of collecting Tithes has been applied.

Name of Village.	Description.	Name of Village.	Description.
Protem	Mussulman.	Eyri Pasha	Non-Mussulman.
Morgash	„	Orta Eyri	„
Kenali	„	Moghila	„
Tchirineftsé	„	Radobor	„
Veloshina	Non-Mussulman.	Ostrouldjé	„
Sveta Petka	„	Dragherina	„
Tchairli (P)	„	Oproshan'	„
Strougovo	„	Koukouretchani	„
Beltché	„	Kirklina	„
Sleptsé	„	Gradeshnitsa	„
Barishan (P)	„	Bratindol (P)	Mussulman and Non-Mussulman.
Opserina	„		
Tchernéboka	„	Ramna (P)	„
Bitosha	„	Lahtsé	„
Sopotnitsa	„	Svetta	„
Tabian	„		

NOTE.—Villages in above list marked (P) are those where the tithe was apportioned according to the product. All the rest according to land.

No. 46.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica inclosing a full Report of the excesses committed by Turkish troops at the Village of Kuklitch, where a Bulgarian band had taken up their position.

The Report is drawn up by a Russian gendarmerie officer who was an eye-witness of the proceedings.

I shall not fail to make the representations which the gravity of the case requires, after consultation with my Russian colleague.

I have. &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Consul-General Graves to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 28, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the Report drawn up by the Russian gendarmerie officer stationed at Stroumnitsa on the subject of the excesses committed by Turkish troops at the Village of Kuklitch on the 16th and 17th February. To this is annexed a supplementary Report, a sketch-map of the village showing the extent of the destruction by fire, and a nominal list of the thirty-six villagers killed and five wounded.

These documents have been communicated to me by the Russian "Adjoint," General Schostak, who himself visited Kuklitch shortly after the occurrences therein narrated, and drew up a Report which he is forwarding to the Russian Embassy at Constantinople. Inquiries were also held on the spot by the Secretaries of the Austrian and Russian Civil Agents, and by Colonel Ali Riza Bey of the Turkish General Staff, who was deputed by Hilmi Pasha for that purpose.

Capitaine du Cimetière's graphic and exhaustive Report does not call for much comment on my part. What must strike every reader is the abundant evidence of lack of discipline on the part of the soldiers and of any serious attempt to enforce it on the part of their officers, in spite of the presence of a foreign gendarmerie officer and his repeated efforts to overcome their apathy and indifference.

The *dénouement* is the almost invariable one on such occasions. We see the usual neglect of all reasonable precautions, the futile attempt to establish a cordon, the aimless fusillade going on for twenty hours, in course of which the Turkish commanding officer's return to Stroumnitsa, leaving the troops to their own devices, the escape of the fifteen "komitajis" unscathed and unpursued, and then the vengeance of soldiers and bashi-bozouks wreaked on the unarmed villagers, with the usual accompaniment of pillage, arson, and other excesses.

General Schostak and Capitaine du Cimetière, who is now at Salonica, have supplied me with the following additional details:—

The Village of Kuklitch consists of about 200 houses, of which forty-three, besides the church and school, have been entirely burnt, and many others partially burnt or damaged by fire. The Turkish officers declared that this had been caused by the bombs of the "komitajis," but Capitaine du Cimetière states that no bombs were exploded while he was present, and that many incendiary fires were lighted long after the departure of the band; while General Schostak pointed out the absurdity of suggesting that the church, situated on an eminence, could have been destroyed by bombs thrown by hand, a distance of 150 metres from the house in which the "komitajis" were barricaded. No arms whatever were found in the village, and all the victims have now been identified as inhabitants of Kuklitch, including the dead men found in the house held by the band, who, according to the statement of the surviving relation, were dragged out of their own home by the soldiers, killed and flung into the house after the "komitajis" had evacuated it, presumably to convey the impression that they had been killed fighting.

General Schostak also tells me that the Gendarmerie Lieutenant Hassan Effendi,

who was with Capitaine du Cimetière nearly all the time, now blankly denies any knowledge of incidents related by that officer as occurring in his presence, noted down at the time in his pocket-book and confirmed by his interpreter, M. d'Obermayer. This attitude is no doubt due to the necessity of conforming to the Turkish official version, which, as communicated to the local newspapers, follows the stereotyped line of attributing the incendiary fires to the bombs of the "komitajis," and the death of the villagers to casualties in action or accident, while it reduces the sack of Kuklitch to the theft of some sheep by "a few gipsies," and utterly denies the truth of the alleged offences against women.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Report on Kuklitch Affair, by Russian Gendarmerie Officer.

A son Excellence le Général Schostak:

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Le 3 Février, 1905, Jeudi, venant de la gare à la ville de Stroumnitza, nous avons rencontré à mi-chemin un habitant Israélite de la ville, Borozin, qui s'en allait à la station et qui, en passant, avertit mon Drogman, M. d'Obermayer, qu'une bataille était engagée non loin de la ville entre les troupes et des comitadjis.

Accélerant l'allure de nos chevaux, autant que le permettait le mauvais état des chemins, nous sommes arrivés en ville à 4 heures et demie ; là le gendarme Audon, qui nous attendait dans notre logement, nous apprit que le village de Kuklitch, distant de 4 kilom. de la ville, était cerné depuis le matin par les troupes et qu'une bataille était engagée entre les troupes et les brigands, qui étaient venus se cacher dans le village. Plusieurs soldats, un caporal gendarme et le Sous-Lieutenant Ismaïl Effendi, blessés, avaient été déjà transportés en ville. Nous nous sommes immédiatement rendus à la maison, où se trouvait le Sous-Lieutenant Ismaïl Effendi ; il est blessé à l'épaule gauche, à 2 ou 3 centim. sous la clavicule ; la balle qui l'a traversé a aussi blessé un enfant qui se trouvait derrière lui. L'ayant prié si cela ne le fatiguait pas de nous dire ce qu'il savait, il nous a raconté, à mots entrecoupés, "qu'une bande était venue dans le village de Kuklitch ; les autorités en ont été averties, et ont envoyé pour la capture de cette bande, dès le matin, une force militaire et des gendarmes ; le village a été cerné par les soldats, qui ont sommé les villageois armés et les comitadjis à se rendre ; les autorités du village ont répondu qu'il n'y avait personne, et ont même délivré un certificat comme quoi il n'y avait aucune personne suspecte cachée dans le village. Les soldats se sont alors approchés et ont été surpris par le feu des comitadjis, qui tua plusieurs soldats ; ont alors crié aux villageois que ceux qui sont honnêtes et innocents sortent du village pour que le chasse aux brigands puisse se faire librement, et c'est à ce moment-là que, s'étant approché pour crier cela de plus près, il a été blessé et puis transporté en ville."

Ceci entendu, au grand galop de nos chevaux nous nous sommes rendus à Kuklitch ; chemin faisant, nous avons rencontré une foule de Musulmans armés qui en revenaient ou y allaient. De loin nous aperçûmes des colonnes de fumée qui commençaient à s'élever en plusieurs endroits différents sur les abords du village ; à mesure que nous approchions nous nous rendîmes compte que l'incendie venait de se déclarer partout à la fois ; une vive fusillade se faisait entendre.

Vers les 5 heures du soir nous sommes arrivés à Kuklitch ; nous y trouvâmes le Caïmacan du Caza, le Major Mahmoud, le Capitaine de la Compagnie de Gendarmerie Mehmed Effendi et son Lieutenant Hassan Effendi, un médecin et un lieutenant militaire, et beaucoup de Turcs armés, venus de la ville et des villages environnants ; les autorités se tenaient à l'abri derrière un mur.

Je demandai au Caïmacan de me dire ce qui se passait, et il me répondit: "Avant tout, mettez-vous bien à l'abri, à côté de nous. Ayant été averti que la bande de Tchernopéeff, sous le commandement de son second, était venue dans le village, nous avons envoyé une force militaire et des gendarmes pour s'en emparer ; après avoir cerné le village, on a dit aux villageois de remettre leurs armes et de dire aux Comités de se rendre ; les villageois ont répondu qu'ils n'avaient pas d'armes et que personne n'était venue dans leur village ; ils ont même délivré aux autorités un certificat écrit, signé et cacheté, déclarant qu'aucun Comité n'était caché dans

le village; sur ce, les soldats s'étant approchés, ils ont été reçus à coups de fusils, et plusieurs d'entre eux ont été tués et blessés; l'on a fait alors crier aux villageois que les bons sortent et viennent se mettre sous la protection des autorités, pour que les méchants puissent être librement poursuivis. C'est à ce moment que le Sous-Lieutenant Ismaïl a été blessé. Jusque-là il y avait une dizaine de soldats blessés, un caporal-gendarme blessé aussi et trois ou quatre morts. Les Comités se sont barricadés dans une maison en pierre, dans le haut du village, d'où ils tiraient sur les troupes, comme ils continuent d'ailleurs à le faire. Cette maison est cernée par les troupes et il y a combat. Aucun résultat jusqu'à ce moment. La nuit s'approche, et l'on ne sait quoi entreprendre."

Je demandai au Caïmacan, qui commandait les troupes, et le nombre des soldats. Il me répondit que les soldats, venus de la ville, au nombre du 250, étaient sous le commandement du Major Mahmoud Bey, mais qu'il avait averti le Commandant Militaire Arif Bey à Stroumnitza de venir lui-même, et qu'il l'attendait.

La fusillade continuait sans interruption, assez vive par moments, et l'incendie, qui avait commencé à notre arrivée, prenait d'assez grandes dimensions.

Curieux de savoir comment le feu put prendre, je le demandai au Caïmacan, qui me répondit: "Je ne le sais pas; il n'y a pas longtemps que je suis là; on dit que ce sont les villageois qui ont mis le feu à leurs maisons, et que des bombes ont été aussi jetées qui ont allumé l'incendie."

Je montrai au Caïmacan une maison qui brûlait à une quinzaine de pas, de l'autre côté du mur derrière lequel nous nous abritions, tandis qu'autour de nous de nombreux soldats circulaient, et lui demandai: "Et celle-ci, comment brûle-t-elle? Ne serait-ce pas les soldats qui y auront mis le feu?"

Il eut un haussement d'épaule et me dit: "Je ne sais pas."

C'est à ce moment—5 heures et un quart—qu'arriva le Commandant Militaire Arif Bey. M. d'Obermayer, mon Drogman, a entendu le Caïmacan lui dire: "Je vous ai dérangé et vous ai prié de venir, car il n'y a jusqu'à présent aucun résultat; la nuit s'approche: que faut-il faire?". S'éloignant à quelques pas, ils se mirent à causer pendant quelques minutes, après quoi le Caïmacan, venant vers moi, me demanda: "Que faire? La nuit s'approche; ils pourront peut-être s'enfuir; voulez-vous que nous fassions un assaut de la maison où se sont barricadés les Comités?"

Je lui répondis: "Je ne sais rien vous dire sur ce qu'il vous faut faire; je ne suis ici que comme témoin, et témoin désirable pour vous, car si, comme je le souhaite et l'espère, il ne s'est passé aucun fait blâmable de la part des troupes, je serai là pour l'attester au besoin."

"Merci," me dit le Caïmacan, "mais ce que je voudrais savoir, c'est votre opinion sur un assaut."

Je lui dis que, généralement, l'assaut d'une maison barricadée et bien défendue peut coûter beaucoup d'hommes.

N'ayant pas vu, ni entendu, exhorter les villageois innocents à quitter le village, par acquit de conscience, craignant que quelqu'incident regrettable n'arrivât d'un moment à l'autre, je priai le Caïmacan s'il était possible d'envoyer encore une fois quelqu'un pour faire dire aux villageois honnêtes de quitter le village. Alors le Caïmacan, s'approchant de quelques villageois, qui venaient d'être arrêtés dans leurs maisons et amenés là, dit à deux d'entre eux de rentrer dans le village et de crier aux autres de sortir; mais les villageois, effrayés, ont dit qu'ils n'osaient pas, craignant d'être tués par les soldats et priant qu'on leur donne quelqu'un pour les accompagner.

Le Caïmacan, s'adressant à moi, me dit: "Nous ne pouvons leur donner personne, car les Comités le tueront. Ce matin un soldat a été tué, et trois de ses camarades ont trouvé la mort en voulant aller le ramasser; le feu des Comités a pourtant cessé devant un paysan envoyé pour ramasser ces soldats morts."

Le Caïmacan rassura ces deux villageois et leur dit qu'ils devaient y aller. Ils se sont allés, mais sont revenus seuls. (Ces villageois arrêtés, au nombre de sept, nous les avons vus amener par les soldats, qui les faisaient courir en les bousculant et les frappant à coups de crosse.)

La fusillade continuait vers le haut du village.

Le Caïmacan me dit que les soldats ne tiraient presque pas.

Je demandai au Caïmacan si je ne pouvais pas aller de l'autre côté du village pour voir ce qui s'y passait. Il me répondit: "Non, non, restez ici, car il y a du danger par là." Je n'insistais pas.

Je dis au Caïmacan que je désirais vous envoyer une dépêche de suite.

"Pourquoi d'ici," me dit-il; "la nuit tombe; ne pouvant rien entreprendre, nous n'avons plus rien à faire ici et allons rentrer en ville."

Je lui dis que, moi, je resterais encore un peu, et je vous envoyai de là ma dépêche par un souvari. Il était 5 heures trois quarts.

Après le départ du Caïmacan et du Commandant Militaire, Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey, qui suivit le Capitaine des Gendarmes Mehmed Effendi, en laissant sur place le Lieutenant Hassan Effendi, qui se trouvait là depuis le matin, je restai avec Hassan Effendi.

Je demandai à Hassan Effendi, puisqu'il était là depuis le matin, de me dire par qui et comment le feu avait été mis.

Il me répondit: "Lorsque le feu s'est déclaré ici, je me trouvais à l'autre bout du village."

"Là aussi ça brûle," lui objectai-je.

Il me répondit que le feu n'avait pris là que plus tard lorsqu'il était revenu.

A la tombée de la nuit plusieurs hommes et enfants, qui s'étaient sauvés dans la plaine, sont rentrés dans le village en flammes. Le feu, activé par le vent, se propageait de proche en proche; on n'entendait dans le village que les lamentations des femmes et d'enfants, les hurlements des chiens et les cris des animaux affolés par les flammes et qui fuyaient dans la campagne. C'était sinistre. Près du mur qui nous servait d'abri se trouvait une porte-cochère de laquelle nous nous sommes approchés pour chercher à nous rendre compte de ce qui pouvait bien se passer à l'intérieur du village. Le Major Mahmoud et le Lieutenant Hassan nous prièrent de ne pas quitter le mur, qui nous servait d'abri, à cause du danger que nous pourrions courir. Vers 6 heures un quart, trois chevaux chargés de munitions arrivèrent de la ville. A mesure que la nuit s'avançait la fusillade diminuait de plus en plus, et finalement, vers les 7 heures ou 7 heures et demie, on n'entendait plus que de rares coups de fusils.

Je demandai à Hassan Effendi, Lieutenant de Gendarmerie, si, en prenant une escorte, je pouvais aller de l'autre côté du village voir ce qui s'y passait, mais il me répondit que c'était trop dangereux, "car la maison dans laquelle se trouvent les Comités est justement située par là," me dit-il.

A ce moment le Sergent-Gendarme Hassan s'approcha de nous et pria Hassan Effendi de me demander de lui délivrer une carte: il est à l'école, et n'est venu ici à Stroumnitza que pour les fêtes du Courban Baïram; il devait rentrer aujourd'hui à l'école, mais ne pouvant, ayant été envoyé sur les lieux du combat, quitter son poste, il me demanda une attestation comme quoi je l'avais vu là. Je la lui promis.

Il s'entretint pendant quelques minutes en Turc avec le lieutenant, et mon Drogman d'Obermayer a entendu Hassan Effendi lui demander: "Et la maison de Petré, qu'est-elle devenue?"

Le Sergent Hassan répondit: "Nous l'avons brûlée" ("Yakdyk").

Tout à coup, à coup de crosse et de canon de fusil dans le dos, le Gendarme Mehmed Tchaouch amena un villageois qu'il remit à Hassan Effendi et l'envoya en ville. A 7 heures trois quarts arriva un renfort de Yenikieui, une cinquantaine de soldats sous les ordres d'un lieutenant et accompagnés de deux gendarmes.

Voyant que le Major Mahmoud passait près de nous avec son lieutenant, nous nous approchâmes d'eux, et, suivis de deux gendarmes, nous nous sommes quelque peu éloignés de l'endroit où nous restions. Près du chemin que nous suivions nous vîmes un cadavre que les gendarmes ne connaissaient pas. Au dire du Sergent Hassan, un autre cadavre gisait un peu plus loin; mais nous ne pûmes aller le voir, le Major retournant sur ses pas. Vers les 9 heures, ne pouvant rien voir, ni aller là où il y avait quelque chose à voir, nous sommes rentrés à pieds, escortés d'un détachement de soldats, mis à notre disposition par le Major, et d'un gendarme. Avant de partir nous avons attiré l'attention du Major Mahmoud et de Hassan Effendi sur la manière dont étaient traités les villageois arrêtés.

Ce matin, Vendredi, 4 Février, vers 6 heures et demie, escortés des deux souvaris Nicolas et Arif, nous sommes retournés à Kuklitch. En chemin nous avons rencontré plusieurs soldats revenant en ville, enveloppés de couvertures et de tapis et chargés de sacs assez volumineux contenant Dieu sait quoi. Les souvaris interrogés nous ont dit que c'était des effets volés aux villageois. Arrivés au village au même endroit que la veille, nous n'y trouvâmes ni le Major ni Hassan Effendi; l'un était sous un abri en train d'écrire, tandis que son lieutenant rôtissait deux poulets, l'autre en patrouille, nous a-t-on dit; par contre, beaucoup de soldats réunis là étaient en train tout ouvertement de se partager des vêtements et du linge de toute sorte et différents objets volés dans les maisons.

A l'instant, étant allés trouver le Major, nous l'avertîmes de ce que nous venions de voir; il ordonna aussitôt au lieutenant d'aller voir cela, noter les noms des coupables et empêcher que cela continue. De là nous nous mîmes, pour avoir des nouvelles, à la recherche de Hassan Effendi qui avait pris on ne sait quelle direction, et pour cela nous suivîmes une patrouille formée d'un lieutenant, commandant un détachement de soldats de Koletch, de deux gendarmes et d'un soldat porte-clairon. Des deux gendarmes l'un était Ibrahim, natif de Tikvesch, et l'autre Ibrahim d'Ilovitza; à la suite de cette patrouille, ayant avec nous le souvari Nicolas, nous longeâmes le village dans sa base. Les maisons brûlaient tout le long; de distance en distance, des groupes de dix à vingt soldats, réunis autour d'un feu, se partageaient le butin volé. Au passage du lieutenant indifférent, ils continuaient sans se gêner. A plusieurs reprises nous avons attiré l'attention du lieutenant sur de tels actes; il prenait les effets volés, les jetait à terre, et après quelques mots de gronderie continuait son chemin, sans autre forme de procès et sans même regarder derrière lui que les soldats ramassaient de nouveau les effets.

Un des gendarmes qui l'accompagnaient, Ibrahim d'Ilovitza, avait sur la tête une serviette volée; lui ayant demandé où il l'avait puisée, il nous répondit que, l'ayant trouvée par terre, il s'en était couvert la tête parce qu'il avait froid. (Il avait pourtant sa capote, avec un bon capuchon qui lui pendait dans le dos.) Nous lui avons dit qu'il n'avait le droit de rien prendre; il nous dit qu'il n'avait ramassé cela qu'avec l'intention de le remettre au Lieutenant de Gendarmerie.

En général, si de telles actions de pillages ont été empêchées par les officiers, cela n'a été qu'en notre présence et sur notre indication, lorsqu'il y a eu possibilité de le faire, et cela après avoir pris les soldats en flagrant délit de pillage.

Au bout du village, à un détour, le lieutenant qui nous précédait, vu notre présence, se mit à crier après deux soldats qui tordaient le cou à de la volaille et qui aux cris s'enfuirent dans une maison. Nous suivîmes les soldats en curieux, pendant que le lieutenant continuait tout bonnement sa route, et entrant dans la maison, dont ils avaient refermé la porte, nous vîmes là de vingt à vingt-cinq soldats et le gendarme Mehmed Tchaouch assis avec eux, réunis autour du feu d'un brasier et en train de se préparer le manger, un chaudron cuisant sur le feu, au lieu, comme ils auraient dû le faire, de patrouiller ou monter la garde; le gendarme Mehmed Tchaouch, le même qui la veille avait maltraité un villageois qu'il avait arrêté, étant aussi assis là au lieu de surveiller et empêcher le pillage. Nous avons encore quelques accusations contre ce même gendarme, mais je ne les mentionne pas aujourd'hui, voulant par une enquête m'assurer de la véracité de ces accusations, qui sont très graves, et trouver ensuite des preuves et des témoins.

Ayant pendant ce temps perdu la patrouille que nous suivions, nous sommes revenus sur nos pas par un chemin de traverse. En passant près d'une maison, nous vîmes une groupe de soldats se partageant le butin, comme tous les autres. Ils étaient sans gendarmes et avaient auprès d'eux un villageois tremblant. Nous fîmes demander par le souvari Nicola aux soldats, pourquoi ils n'avaient pas remis leur prisonnier aux gendarmes. Le villageois, encouragé par la présence du souvari Nicola, qu'il connaissait, s'approcha de nous et nous supplia de ne pas le laisser entre les mains des soldats, qui, disait-il, sûrement le tueront après notre départ. Le souvari Nicola le fit prisonnier et l'emmena avec nous. En passant près d'une maison qui fumait encore, ce villageois, qui s'appelait Nicoli, nous dit qu'il y avait là-dedans le cadavre d'un homme; nous nous approchâmes et vîmes en travers de la porte de la maison fumante le cadavre tordu et en partie brûlé d'un homme qui avait les bras liés derrière le dos avec une corde dont un bout traînait sur le seuil, couché sur le dos couvert de sang et de débris de la toiture, ayant sur son pantalon à la cuisse gauche les déchirures des plombs d'un fusil de chasse. . . . . Cette homme, nommé Gligor, berger de Popcevo, était venu là avec son troupeau de moutons, chez son beau-frère Mité, dans la maison duquel il gisait. Il est de toute évidence que cet homme blessé a été lié et jeté dans la maison en flammes, et la position du corps tordu, l'expression d'épouvante peinte sur son visage, indiquent clairement qu'il a fait tous ses efforts pour échapper aux flammes.

De là, revenus à notre point de départ, nous rencontrâmes enfin Hassan Effendi, qui nous apprit que les Comitadjis s'étaient enfuis à la faveur du brouillard, qui s'était élevé pendant la nuit, qu'il n'y avait plus rien dans le village, que les soldats s'apprêtaient à partir, le clairon sonnant le ralliement. Nous demandâmes alors à visiter le lieu du combat; Hassan Effendi, passant devant nous, montra le chemin, qui traverse le village. A notre gauche, étendus dans la neige, nous vîmes le cadavre d'un jeune homme de 24 à 25 ans dont l'identité n'est pas encore établie; c'est le

cadavre que nous avions aperçu la veille au soir. A quelques 20 mètres plus loin à travers du chemin gisaient, à une distance de 4 à 5 mètres l'un de l'autre, deux cadavres dont l'un est le meunier Atanasse et l'autre n'a pas encore été reconnu. Les pieds de l'inconnu sont déchaussés, les chaussons jetés à côté sur la neige; sur la plante des pieds se voient des brûlures assez fortes faites sans doute à un brasier dont les cendres éteintes se voient tout près et sur lesquelles a été jeté le corps du meunier Atanasse. Arrivés dans la maison que Hassan Effendi indique comme étant celle où s'étaient barricadés les Comitadjis, nous y vîmes par dehors beaucoup de traces de coups de feu sur les murs. C'est une maison à un étage dont ci-dessous un croquis du premier;* au rez-de-chaussée se trouve l'écurie.

Les fenêtres et les portes sont barricadées avec des pierres. Dans la chambre (A) deux cadavres (*d*) et (*b*)—(*a*) celui de Malino Atanasse, et (*b*) de Lazare Holi—gisent à terre, tués à coups de fusil; ils sont sans aucune arme, à leurs pieds une cinquantaine de cartouches vides de Mannlicher dans les décombres des brèches I, I et I; on en a trouvé encore quelques-unes entre les deux brèches à gauche. Sur le siège hors de la maison gît le cadavre (*c*) de Risto Holi, frère de Lazare (*b*). A la porte s'ouvrant sur la montagne (*m*) un matelas par terre, entouré d'une barricade de pierres, a pu servir de poste de défense à un ou plusieurs Comitadjis.

Pendant que nous étions en train de visiter cette maison, des cris déchirants de "Aman ! Aman !" ("grâce!"), maintes fois répétés, attirèrent notre attention; en même temps plusieurs coups de feu se firent entendre vers le milieu du village, pas bien loin de la maison dans laquelle nous nous trouvions. Nous avons cru un instant qu'ayant vu de loin des personnes dans la maison barricadée, quelques soldats non avertis avaient tiré dessus. Hassan Effendi, sortant sur le pas de la porte, cria à plusieurs reprises: "Askers, askers ! ici aussi il y a des askers; ne tirez pas!" Mon Drogman, M. d'Obermayer, fit remarquer à Hassan Effendi qu'il y avait peut-être encore quelque Comitadji qui avait tiré. "Non, non," lui répondit Hassan Effendi; "à cette heure il n'y a dans le village que des soldats qui puissent tirer." (Il était 9 heures 5 minutes du matin.) Et il y avait plus de vingt minutes que Hassan Effendi nous avait dit que l'on avait sonné le ralliement. Sortant de là, nous sommes entrés dans une maison voisine se trouvant sur notre chemin, où il y avait un villageois, Yani Kosta, blessé par une balle à la tête le matin même par les soldats sur le seuil de sa porte; sa belle-fille Hélène a été aussi blessée à la jambe d'une balle, étant sortie par la porte de derrière de la maison pour éteindre l'incendie qui venait d'être mis avec du pétrole par les soldats, nous a-t-elle dit; nous avons vu la porte et les boiseries environnantes calcinées et le bidon vide de pétrole. De là, où nous ne nous étions arrêtés que deux minutes, étant pressés d'aller plus loin voir ce qu'avaient été ces cris de "Aman" et les coups de fusils, nous redescendîmes vers le milieu du village par le chemin que nous avions pris pour monter, et nous trouvâmes sur le chemin là où nous avions passé dix minutes auparavant et où il n'y avait rien:

Le cadavre, palpitant et tout chaud, de Paudé Traîko, tué à coups de fusils; à cinq à dix pas plus loin, sur le chemin se dirigeant vers le centre du village, second cadavre tout chaud—celui de Velko Poîras; à ses côtés il y avait une petite bourse en toile grossière ouverte, dans laquelle il n'y avait que son cachet. Cette bourse ouverte et jetée à côté du cadavre prouve qu'après l'avoir tué on lui a volé son argent. En train de faire ces constatations, nous entendîmes des nouveaux coups de fusils à une centaine de mètres plus loin, devant nous; regardant dans la direction des coups de feu, nous vîmes des soldats fuyant à travers les arbres et les maisons. . . . . Nous priâmes Hassan Effendi d'envoyer à l'instant les deux ou trois gendarmes qui se trouvaient avec nous pour reconnaître, faire arrêter, si possible, par un officier ces assassins et empêcher la continuation de ces forfaits. Les coups de feu continuèrent quelques minutes encore, et dans la direction des coups de feu des nouveaux incendies allumés par des mains criminelles venaient de se déclarer rapidement. En nous dépêchant beaucoup et tâchant de ne point perdre inutilement le temps pour arriver à tout constater immédiatement de nos propres yeux, nous suivîmes notre chemin de cadavres en cadavres que nous indiquaient des femmes, l'air égaré d'épouvante. Le Lieutenant Hassan Effendi, le souvari Nicolas, et le villageois susnommé Nicoli, que notre souvari avait arrêté peu de temps auparavant, nous accompagnaient dans notre tournée. Après Velko Poiras, à quelques pas, aussi tout chaud, gisait le cadavre de Risto Bekiar, près duquel le souvari Nicolas ramassa une cartouche vide de Mauser appartenant à l'armée, pièce à conviction que nous nous sommes permis de mettre

* Note.—The sketch is not reproduced.

dans la poche, tout en la montrant à Hassan Effendi. Notre marche rapide ne nous a point permis de chercher d'autres cartouches vides; continuant notre marche, nous entendîmes des cris déchirants de femmes; nous sommes entrés dans la cour d'une maison, et nous y avons trouvé le cadavre d'Hélène, fille de Goni Paudé, qui, au dire des femmes qui pleuraient là à côté, a été tuée hier soir en s'enfuyant de chez elle. Une maison brûlait à côté; c'est l'école, et le feu vient d'être mis à l'instant. Devant l'école un villageois, Tonee Paudé, originaire de Stroumnitza, mais habitant Kuklitch depuis son enfance, venait d'être tué par les soldats de quatre coups de feu, au dire des femmes assises non loin; nous avons constaté que le cadavre était tout chaud. A quelque pas, blotti dans une meule de foin, un vieux paysan, Illo Pehlivan, couché à terre, gémissait; il avait été frappé à coups de crosse par les soldats, quelques minutes auparavant. Suivant notre route, à gauche, près d'une maison qui commençait à brûler, le cadavre tout chaud de Yorghi Dulgher, tué par une balle; plus loin, au milieu du chemin, un tout jeune homme gisait mort, tué par une balle; son cadavre était froid; il a dû être tué pendant la nuit; son identité n'a pas encore été établie.

Sur une petite hauteur un peu plus loin, nous aperçûmes une foule de femmes; leur cris nous frappant, nous accourûmes, et vîmes fuir des villageois Musulmans armés qui dévalisaient ces femmes, filles, et enfants. Les montrant à Hassan Effendi, je lui conseillai de les arrêter. Il en fit arrêter quatre, qu'il envoya en ville avec un gendarme, après leur avoir enlevé les armes (fusils et pistolets) qu'ils portaient sur eux. Nous leur avons demandé leurs noms; voici ceux qu'ils nous ont donnés: Osman de Svidovitça, Hassan de Bausköj, Mehmed de Bausköj, et un autre, tous les quatre arrêtés les armes à la main. Là tout près, nous avons trouvé le paysan Velko Yorghi, blessé par les soldats.

Parmi les femmes qui étaient là deux accusent les soldats de les avoir maltraité pour leur voler de l'argent; les noms des femmes, Vanykhé Traïko et Respo Nako, ont été notés. N'ayant pas le temps de m'arrêter à tous les détails, j'ai remis cela à l'enquête que j'ouvrirai plus tard. Une autre femme, Gano Noté, accuse les soldats de l'avoir violée; une dizaine de soldats l'auraient enfermée dans une chambre de la maison, et pendant que l'un d'eux, que l'on appelait Borigan, la violait, les autres la tenaient; on ne la laissa libre que contre £ T. 1, qu'une de ses parents a pu réunir et apporter.

Plus loin, vers notre gauche, nous avons trouvé le mari, Traïko Doné, de cette femme violée, qui a été blessé hier soir par un coup de feu au ventre; près de lui le cadavre, tiède encore, de Christo Yorghi, tué ce matin un peu auparavant par les soldats, au dire de sa mère, qui le pleure. Les gendarmes envoyés à la poursuite des soldats assassins nous ont rejoint sans aucun résultat; en chemin, plusieurs soldats rencontrés, d'ici de là, fuyant et chargés de butin, à notre vue et aux cris de Hassan Effendi, se cachaient. Près de ce groupe de femmes et d'enfants rencontrés plus haut, Hassan Effendi, sur mon conseil, a laissé deux gendarmes pour veiller sur toutes ces femmes et ces enfants. Je me suis arrangé de manière que des deux gendarmes qui sont restés près de ces femmes, l'un était Chrétien. Un gendarme et Hassan Effendi lui-même ont couru à la poursuite d'un groupe de paysans Musulmans armés qui s'enfuyaient chargés de butin. Coupant le chemin d'un autre côté le souvari Nicolas a retourné sur la route beaucoup d'effets abandonnés par ces hommes pour mieux fuir. Nous avons aperçu sur la route de Svidovitça des troupeaux d'animaux, bœufs, vaches, et autres, que l'on emportait; c'était les paysans Musulmans de Svidovitça.

A ce moment, un lieutenant militaire, commandant le détachement de Kolesch, composé d'une vingtaine de soldats, passait sur la route, rentrant dans son casernement. Averti par Hassan Effendi des pillages qui venaient de se faire, il promit, en passant à Svidovitça, d'arrêter les coupables et de les envoyer avec les animaux et objets volés. Mais les soldats qui l'accompagnaient avaient presque tous le dos chargé d'un sac rempli d'objets volés. J'en fis l'observation à Hassan Effendi. Curieux détail! Comme Hassan Effendi venait d'arrêter, quelques instants plus tôt, plusieurs paysans Musulmans armés et leur avait enlevé les armes, il les avait posées provisoirement à terre. Le détachement des soldats de Kolesch passant par là, les askers regardaient avec convoitise ces armes, mais ma présence les gênait, lorsqu'un d'eux, plus effronté que ses camarades—et ce n'est pas peu dire—se baisse et prend un pistolet que l'on venait d'enlever au villageois Musulman de Svidovitça. Je le fis remarquer à l'officier, qui, s'approchant de lui, lui enleva, non sans peine, le pistolet.

Le mot "discipline" était complètement inconnu aux askers, surtout quand ils avaient intérêt à ne pas le connaître. Le gendarme Ibrahim de Ilovitza s'en

allait à Kolesch avec le détachement, avec la serviette, qu'il n'avait prise, soi-disant, que pour se chauffer. Il avait même dit à M. d'Obermayer qu'il remettrait la serviette à sa place; mais il ne l'a pas fait.

(Signé) Capitaine DU CIMETIÈRE.

(Translation.)

To his Excellency General Schostak:

I HAVE the honour to make the following report to your Excellency:—

On the 3rd February, 1905, Thursday, on our way from the railway station to the town of Stroumnitsa, we met half-way a Jewish inhabitant of the town, named Borozin, who was making for the station and who, as he passed, warned my dragoman, M. d'Obermayer, that a battle between the troops and some Komitajis had begun not far from the town.

Quickening the pace of our horses, as well as the bad state of the roads permitted, we arrived in the town at half-past four; there the gendarme, Audon, who was awaiting us in our quarters, informed us that the village of Kuklitch, 4 kilom. distant from the town, had been surrounded by the troops since the morning, and that a battle was in progress between the troops and the brigands, who had taken refuge in the village. Several soldiers, one gendarme corporal and Sub-Lieutenant Ismaïl Effendi, all wounded, had already been brought into the town. We immediately repaired to the house, where Sub-Lieutenant Ismaïl Effendi was; he is wounded in the left shoulder, 2 or 3 centim. below the collar-bone; the bullet, which went through him, also wounded a child who happened to be behind him. In reply to our request that, if it did not tire him, he would tell us what he knew, he informed us in broken words, "that a band had entered the village of Kuklitch; the authorities were informed, and early in the morning sent a military force and gendarmes to capture the band; the village was surrounded by the soldiers, who summoned the armed villagers and Komitajis to surrender; the village authorities replied that there was no one there, and even delivered a certificate, according to which there was no suspected person hidden in the village. The soldiers then approached and were surprised by the fire of the Komitajis, which killed several soldiers; they thereupon called to the villagers that honest and innocent people should leave the village, so that the hunt for the brigands might be carried on freely, and it was at that moment that, having approached to call this out from nearer, he was wounded and carried to the town."

After hearing his account we rode to Kuklitch at full gallop; as we went we met with a crowd of armed Mussulmans on their way to and from the place. From a distance we observed columns of smoke beginning to rise from several different places on the outskirts of the village; as we approached we realized that the fire had broken out everywhere simultaneously; we could hear a brisk fusilade.

We arrived at Kuklitch at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon; there we found the Kaïmakam of the Kaza, Major Mahmoud, gendarmerie captain Mehmed Effendi, and his lieutenant Hassan Effendi, a doctor, and an army lieutenant, and many armed Turks from the town and neighbouring villages; the authorities were taking cover behind a wall.

I asked the Kaïmakam to explain what was going on, and he replied, "First of all shelter yourself carefully beside us. Having been warned that Tchernopéeff's band, commanded by his lieutenant, had come into the village, we sent a force of soldiers and gendarmes to capture it; after surrounding the village, the villagers were told to give up their arms and tell the Komitajis to surrender; the villagers replied that they had no arms and that nobody had come into their village; they even delivered a written certificate signed and sealed to the authorities, declaring that not a single Komitaji was hidden in the village, whereupon the soldiers approached and were received with rifle-shots, and several of them were killed and wounded; the order was then given to call to the villagers that the good should come out and place themselves under the protection of the authorities so that the wicked might be freely pursued. It was at that moment that Sub-Lieutenant Ismaïl was wounded. Up to that time there were about ten soldiers wounded, one gendarmerie corporal wounded also and three or four killed. The Komitajis barricaded themselves in a stone house at the top of the village, whence they fired at the troops, as they are in fact still doing. That house is surrounded by the troops and a conflict is in progress. No result up to the present. The night is at hand, and we are at a loss to know what is to be done."

I asked the Kaïmakam who was in command of the troops, and the number of soldiers He replied that the soldiers from the town, to the number of 250, were under the command of Major Mahmoud Bey, but that he had requested the Military Commandant, Arif Bey, at Stroumnitsa, to come himself, and that he was expecting him.

The fusilade continued without interruption, quite briskly at times, and the fire which had broken out on our arrival was spreading considerably.

Curious to know how the fire originated, I asked the Kaïmakam, who said, "I do not know; I have not been here long. They say that it is the villagers who have set fire to their houses, and that bombs have also been thrown, which created the blaze."

I pointed out to the Kaïmakam a burning house about fifteen paces off, on the other side of the wall behind which we were sheltered, while numerous soldiers were moving all round us, and asked him, "And that one; how did it catch fire? Was it not the soldiers who set fire to it?"

He shrugged his shoulders, and said, "I do not know."

At that moment—a quarter past five—the Military Commandant, Arif Bey, arrived. M. d'Obermayer, my dragoman, heard the Kaïmakam say to him, "I have disturbed you, and requested you to come, because, up to the present, there is no result. Night is approaching; what is to be done?" Moving a few paces away, they conversed for a few minutes, after which the Kaïmakam, walking towards me, asked me, "What is to be done? The night is coming on. They might perhaps make good their escape. Do you wish us to storm the house in which the Komitajis have barricaded themselves?"

I replied, "I can have nothing to say to you as to the course you should adopt; I am only here as a witness, and a desirable witness for you, for if, as I hope and trust, the troops have done nothing for which they could be reproached, I shall be there to bear witness if need be."

"Thank you," said the Kaïmakam, "but what I want to know is, what is your opinion as to an assault?"

I told him that generally an assault on a barricaded house, well defended, may cost the lives of many men.

Not having seen nor heard any one exhort the innocent villagers to leave the village, in order to clear my own conscience, and fearing lest at any moment some regrettable incident should occur, I begged the Kaïmakam, if it were possible, once more to dispatch some one to have the loyal villagers told to quit the village. Then the Kaïmakam going up to some villagers, who had just been arrested in their houses and brought there, told two of them to go back to the village and to call to the others to come out; but the frightened villagers said they did not dare, fearing that they would be killed by the soldiers, and begged that some one might be told off to accompany them.

The Kaïmakam, addressing me, said: "We cannot give them any one, because the Komitajis will kill them. This morning one soldier was killed, and three of his comrades met their death in trying to go and pick him up. The Komitajis, however, ceased fire at the approach of a peasant sent to pick up these dead soldiers."

The Kaïmakam reassured these two villagers, and told them they must go. They went off, but returned alone. (We saw those arrested villagers to the number of seven brought in by the soldiers, who made them run, hustling them and striking them with the butts of their rifles.)

The fusilade continued towards the top of the village.

The Kaïmakam told me the soldiers were hardly firing at all.

I asked the Kaïmakam if I could not go to the other side of the village to see what was taking place there. He replied: "No, no, stay here, for it is dangerous over there." I did not insist.

I told the Kaïmakam that I wished to send you a telegram at once.

"Why from here?" said he. "Night is falling; as we can undertake nothing, we have nothing more to do here, and let us go back to the town."

I told him that I, for my part, would stay a little longer, and I sent you my telegram from there by a souvari. It was a quarter to six.

After the departure of the Kaïmakam and the Military Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey, who followed the Captain of the gendarmes, Mehmed Effendi, leaving on the spot Lieutenant Hassan Effendi, who had been there since morning, I remained with Hassan Effendi.

I asked Hassan Effendi, as he had been there since morning, to tell me how and by whom the fire had been kindled.

He replied: "When fire broke out here I was at the other end of the village."

"There is fire there also," I objected.

He answered that fire had only broken out there later, when he had returned.

At nightfall several men and children, who had taken refuge in the plain, cam back to the burning village. The fire, fanned by the wind, spread nearer and nearer; nothing could be heard in the village but the lamentations of women and children, the howling of dogs, and the cries of animals maddened by the flames and flying into the country. It was awful. Near the wall which formed our shelter was an archway, which we approached to try and ascertain what was going on in the interior of the village. Major Mahmoud and Lieutenant Hassan begged us not to leave the protecting wall on account of the danger we might run. Towards a quarter past six, three horses, laden with ammunition, arrived from the town. As night drew on the firing diminished steadily, and finally, towards 7 or 7·30, only occasional shots were to be heard.

I asked Hassan Effendi, Lieutenant of Gendarmerie, if I could take an escort and proceed to the other side of the village to see what was going on; but he told me it was too dangerous, "because," said he, "the house occupied by the Komitajis is just in that quarter."

At that moment Gendarmerie-Sergeant Hassan came up to us and begged Hassan Effendi to ask me to give him my card. He is at the school, and only came here to Stroumnitsa for the Courban Baïram Festival; he ought to have returned to the school to-day, but having been sent to the scene of the conflict, and being unable to leave his post, he asked for my testimony that I had seen him on the spot. I promised he should have it.

He conversed with the lieutenant for a few minutes in Turkish, and my dragoman, d'Obermayer, heard Hassan Effendi ask him: "And Petré's house, what has happened to it?"

Sergeant Hassan replied: "We have burned it" ("Yakdyk").

All of a sudden the gendarme Mehmed Tchaouch brought in a villager, striking him in the back with the butt and barrel of his rifle, and handed him over to Hassan Effendi who sent him to the town. At a quarter to eight reinforcements arrived from Yenikieui, consisting of about fifty soldiers, commanded by a lieutenant, and accompanied by two gendarmes.

Seeing that Major Mahmoud was passing near us with his lieutenant, we approached them, and, followed by two gendarmes, we moved some distance from where we were. Near the path we followed we saw a dead body, which the gendarmes did not recognize. According to Sergeant Hassan, another dead body was lying a little further on, but we could not go to inspect it as the Major retraced his steps. Towards 9 o'clock, being unable to see anything, or to go where there was anything to see, we returned on foot, escorted by a gendarme and a detachment of soldiers placed at our disposal by the Major. Before leaving, we called the attention of Major Mahmoud and Hassan Effendi to the manner in which the arrested villagers were treated.

This morning, Friday, the 4th February, towards half-past six, escorted by two souvaris, Nicolas and Arif, we returned to Kuklitch. On the way we met several soldiers returning to the town wrapped in blankets and carpets, and loaded with fair sized sacks containing Heaven knows what. The souvaris, on being asked, told us it was property stolen from the villagers. Having arrived at the village at the same place as on the previous day, we found neither the Major nor Hassan Effendi; one was under shelter busy writing, while his lieutenant was roasting two chickens; the other was said to be on patrol duty. On the other hand, a number of soldiers assembled there were busy openly dividing among themselves the clothes and linen and various articles stolen from the houses.

We instantly went and found the Major, and informed him of what we had just seen; he immediately ordered the Lieutenant to go and see, take note of the names of those guilty, and put a stop to it. Thence, to obtain information, we proceeded to look for Hassan Effendi who had gone in some unknown direction, and, with that object in view, we followed a patrol, consisting of a Lieutenant, commanding a detachment of soldiers from Koletch, two gendarmes, and one bugler. Of the two gendarmes, one was Ibrahim, native of Tikvesch, and the other, Ibrahim of Ilovitsa. Following this patrol, the souvari Nicolas being with us, we traversed the village. Houses were burning all the way; at intervals groups of ten to twenty soldiers, assembled round a fire, were dividing their stolen booty. As the Lieutenant, who displayed the utmost indifference, passed, they continued without paying the slightest attention. Several times we called the attention of the Lieutenant to such acts, and he took the stolen property, threw it on the ground, and, after a few words of reproof,

passed on, without any further form of inquiry, and without even looking behind him to see the soldiers picking the articles up again.

One of the gendarmes accompanying him, Ibrahim of Ilovitsa, had on his head a stolen towel; asked where he had procured it, he replied that, having found it on the ground, he put it on his head because he was cold (he, however, had his cape, with a good hood, hanging down his back). We told him he had no right to take anything; he told us that he had only picked it up with the intention of handing it over to the gendarmerie Lieutenant.

In general, if such cases of pillage were prevented by the officers, it was only in our presence and on our drawing attention to them, whenever it was possible to do so, and that after having caught the soldiers in the very act of plundering.

At the end of the village, round a corner, the Lieutenant, who was walking in front of us, in view of our being present, began to shout to two soldiers who were wringing the necks of some poultry, and who thereupon fled into a house. We followed the soldiers out of curiosity, while the Lieutenant calmly passed on, and when we entered the house, of which they had shut the door behind them, we saw twenty to five-and-twenty soldiers there and the gendarme Mehmed Tchaouch seated with them, gathered round an open fire and busy preparing a meal, a pot cooking on the fire, instead of patrolling or keeping guard as they ought to have done; the gendarme Mehmed Tchaouch, the same who had ill-treated a villager he had arrested the day before, was also seated there instead of watching and preventing pillage. We have further accusations against this same gendarme, but I do not mention them to-day, as I wish to confirm the truth of these accusations, which are very serious, and then find evidence and witnesses.

Having by this time lost the patrol we were following, we returned by a cross cut. As we passed near a house we saw a group of soldiers dividing their spoil, like all the rest. They were unaccompanied by any gendarmes, and had a trembling villager near them. We made the souvari Nicola ask the soldiers why they had not handed their prisoner over to the gendarmes. The villager, encouraged by the presence of the souvari Nicola, whom he knew, approached us and implored us not to leave him in the hands of the soldiers, who, he said, would surely kill him after we had gone. The souvari Nicola made him prisoner and took him away with us. As we passed near a house, which was still smoking, this villager, who was called Nicoli, told us there was a corpse inside; we went up to it, and saw through the doorway of the smoking house the distorted and partially-charred body of a man, with his hands tied behind him by a rope, one end of which lay across the threshold, lying on his back covered with blood and the wreckage of the roof; his trousers were torn on the left in the region of the thigh by shot from a shot-gun . . . . This man, Gligor by name, a shepherd from Popcevo, had come there with his flock of sheep to visit his brother-in-law Mité, in whose house he was lying. It is quite evident that this wounded man had been bound and thrown into the burning house, and the position of the distorted body, the expression of horror on his face, indicates clearly that he had struggled with all his might to escape the flames.

Then, having arrived at our starting-place, we at last found Hassan Effendi, who informed us that the Komitajis had made good their escape under cover of the mist, which had risen during the night, that there was nothing left in the village, that the soldiers were preparing to leave, as the bugle was sounding the assembly. We then asked to visit the scene of the fighting; Hassan Effendi, leading the way, showed us the road which traverses the village. On our left, stretched out on the snow, we saw the dead body of a young man, from 24 to 25 years of age, whose identity has not yet been established; it was the body we had seen the evening before. About 20 metres further on, on the other side of the road, two dead bodies were lying, 4 to 5 metres apart, of which one was that of the miller, Atanasse, and the other has not yet been identified. The feet of the latter are bare, the boots being cast aside on the snow; on the soles of his feet some severe burns were visible, no doubt made at a fire, the ashes of which could be seen close by and on which the body of the miller, Atanasse, had been thrown. On arriving at the house which Hassan Effendi pointed out as being that in which the Komitajis had barricaded themselves, we saw outside many bullet marks on the walls. It is a one-storied house, of which a sketch of the first floor is inclosed;* on the ground floor is the stable.

The windows and doors are barricaded with stones. In room (A) two corpses (*d*) and (*b*) lay on the floor, killed by gun-shots—(*d*) that of Malino Atanasse, and (*b*)

* Note—The sketch is not reproduced.

that of Lazare Holi—they are absolutely unarmed, and at their feet about fifty empty Mannlicher cartridges in the ruins of the breaches I, I and I; several more were found between the two breaches to the left. On the seat outside the house lies the corpse (*c*) of Risto Holi, brother of Lazare (*b*). At the door opening towards the mountain (*m*) a mattress on the ground, surrounded by a barricade of stones, might have served as a defensive post for one or more Komitajis.

While we were inspecting this house our attention was attracted by heartrending cries of "Aman! Aman!" ("Mercy!") often repeated. At the same time several shots were heard towards the centre of the village, not very far from the house in which we were. We thought for a moment that, having seen from a distance people in the barricaded house, some soldiers who had not been warned had opened fire. Hassan Effendi, going out on to the door-step, shouted several times, "Askers! askers! there are askers here also. Don't shoot!" My dragoman, M. d'Obermayer, remarked to Hassan Effendi that there was perhaps still some Komitaji who had fired. "No, no," answered Hassan Effendi, "the only people in the village who could fire now are soldiers" (it was five minutes past nine in the morning), and it was more than twenty minutes before that Hassan Effendi had told us that the assembly had been sounded. Leaving that house we entered a neighbouring one on our way, where there was a villager, Yani Kosta, wounded in the head on the threshold of his door that very morning by a bullet from the soldiers. His daughter-in-law had also been wounded in the leg by a bullet, having gone out by the back door of the house to put out the fire, which, she told us, the soldiers had kindled with petroleum. We saw the door and the surrounding woodwork charred and the empty petroleum can. Thence, where we had only stopped two minutes, being in a hurry to go further to see what those cries of "Aman!" and the gunshots meant, we came down again towards the middle of the village, by the road we had taken going up, and we found, on the very road where we had passed ten minutes earlier, and where there had been nothing:—

The quivering and quite warm body of Paudé Traîko, killed by rifle shots. Five to ten paces further on the road leading towards the centre of the village, a second corpse, quite warm—that of Velko Poîras; by his side there was a little coarse canvas purse, open, in which there was nothing but his seal. This open purse thrown down beside the body proves that after being killed he was robbed of his money. While we were collecting these points of evidence we heard fresh gun-shots about 100 metres further on ahead of us; looking in the direction of the reports, we saw some soldiers running away among the trees and houses. . . . . We begged Hassan Effendi to send at once the two or three gendarmes accompanying us to identify these assassins and have them arrested, if possible, by an officer, and to prevent the continuation of these outrages. The firing continued a few minutes longer, and in the direction of the shots new conflagrations, lit by criminal hands, had just broken out in rapid succession. Hurrying as fast as we could, and trying not to waste time uselessly, in order to arrive in time to witness everything with our own eyes, we passed on our way from corpse to corpse, which some women pointed out to us, distracted with fear. Lieutenant Hassan Effendi, souvari Nicolas, and the above-mentioned villager, Nicoli, whom our souvari had arrested a short time before, accompanied us on our tour. After Velko Poîras, a few paces away, and also quite warm, lay the corpse of Risto Bekiar, near whom souvari Nicolas picked up an empty Mauser cartridge belonging to the army, an incriminating piece of evidence, which we took the liberty of pocketing, showing it as we did so to Hassan Effendi. Our rapid march did not permit us to look for other empty cartridges; continuing our way we heard the piercing cries of women; we entered the yard of a house, and we found the dead body of Helena, daughter of Goni Paudé, who, according to the women who were weeping by her side, was killed yesterday evening as she was running away from her home. A house was burning near; it is the school, and it has just been set on fire this instant. In front of the school a villager, Tonee Paudé, native of Stroumnitsa, but residing at Kuklitch since his childhood, had just been killed by the soldiers with four rifle shots, according to the statements of the women sitting near; we noticed that the body was still quite warm. A few paces away, hidden by a haystack, an old villager, Illo Pehlivan, lay on the ground groaning; he had been belaboured a few minutes earlier by the soldiers with the butts of their rifles. Following our road to the left, near a house which was beginning to burn, the warm corpse of Yorghi Dulghor killed by a bullet; a little further in the middle of the road lay quite a young man killed by a bullet; his body was cold; he must have been killed during the night; his identity has not yet been established.

On a small mound a little further off we saw a crowd of women; hearing their

cries we ran up and saw the Moslem inhabitants of the village, who were robbing these women, girls, and children, running away. Showing them to Hassan Effendi, I advised him to arrest them. He had four of them arrested, and sent them to the town with a gendarme after taking away the arms (guns and pistols) which they carried. We asked them their names; the following are those given by them: Osman of Svidovitça, Hassan of Bausköj, Mehmed of Bausköj, and another; all these four were arrested with arms in their hands. Quite near there we found the peasant Velko Yorghi wounded by the soldiers.

Among the women who were there two accused the soldiers of having maltreated them in order to steal their money; the names of the women, Vanykhé Traïko and Respo Nakho, were noted. Not having time to enter into all the details, I put it off to the inquiry which I shall open later. Another woman, Gano Noté, accuses the soldiers of having violated her; ten soldiers are said to have shut her up in a room of the house, and while one of them called Borigan violated her the others held her; she was only liberated on payment of £ T. 1 which one of her relations was able to collect and bring to her.

Further on, on the left hand side, we found the husband, Traïko Doné, of this woman who had been violated; he had been wounded yesterday evening by a shot in the stomach; near him was the body, still warm, of Christo Yorghi, killed a little earlier this morning by the soldiers, according to the account given by his mother who was mourning for him. The gendarmes sent in pursuit of the soldier murderers came back to us without any result; on our way we met here and there several soldiers running away laden with plunder, who on seeing us and hearing the cries of Hassan Effendi hid themselves. Near the group of women and children whom we found as stated above, Hassan Effendi had by my advice left two gendarmes as a guard for them. I arranged that of the two gendarmes left near these women one should be a Christian. A gendarme and Hassan Effendi himself ran in pursuit of a band of Moslem peasants who were armed and were running away laden with booty. Crossing the road from another side the souvari Nicolas found lying about many articles which had been abandoned by these men to facilitate their flight. On the road to Svidovitça we saw herds of animals, oxen, cows, &c., which were being carried off by the Moslem peasants of Svidovitça.

At this moment an army Lieutenant, commanding the detachment of Kolesh composed of a score of men, passed along the road on his way back to barracks. On hearing from Hassan Effendi of the plundering which had been going on, he promised, on passing through Svidovitça, to arrest the culprits and to send them in with the animals and property they had stolen. But the soldiers accompanying him had almost everyone a sack on their backs filled with stolen property. I called the attention of Hassan Effendi to this—a curious fact! When Hassan Effendi a few moments previously had arrested several armed Mussulman peasants, and had taken away their arms, he had placed the latter for the time being on the ground. The detachment of Kolesh soldiers passing by, the "askers" cast covetous eyes on these arms, but my presence restrained them, till one of them, more intrepid than his comrades—and that is saying a good deal—bent down and took a pistol which had just been taken away from the Mussulman inhabitant of Svidovitça. I called the officer's attention to him, and going up to him he took the pistol away, not without some little trouble.

The word discipline was totally unknown to the "askers," especially when it was to their interest not to know it. The gendarme Ibrahim of Ilovitsa went to Kolesch with the detachment, taking with him the towel, which he said he had only taken to keep himself warm. He promised M. d'Obermayer to put the towel back in its place, but did not do so.

(Signed) Captain DU CIMETIÈRE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 46.

Supplementary Report on Kuklitch Affair, by Russian Gendarmerie Officer.

A son Excellence le Général Schostak:

EN continuation de mon Rapport, j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Les noms de plusieurs villageois Musulmans rencontrés par moi et Hassan Effendi

sur le chemin, au moment où, chargés de leur butin et armés de leurs fusils et pistolets, ils s'en retournaient à Svidovitça, sont :

Mehmed Moustafa.
Kiso Haidar.
Hassan Brizar.

Moustafa Hassan, de Svidovitça. } Arrêtés, sur mon conseil, par Hassan Effendi,
Moustafa Ibrahim, de Hamzali. } étant pris armés et avec du butin (différents effets volés).

Ensuite arrivé à l'endroit où se trouvaient nos chevaux, j'aperçus le Major Mahmoud Bey, que je n'avais plus revu depuis mon arrivée le matin. Je lui fis raconter par mon Drogman tout ce que j'avais vu sur la conduite des askers, lui fis remarquer que, malgré le ralliement que sonna le clairon, on continuait toujours à tirer ; lui dis que les soldats étaient complètement livrés à eux-mêmes—sur quoi j'ai tiré son attention. Je lui fis raconter, en outre, que nous avions entendu des cris " Aman ! Aman ! ", tirer des coups de fusil, que Hassan Effendi, sorti sur le balcon de la maison où nous nous trouvions, avait crié aux askers de ne pas tirer, et, finalement, que nous avions trouvé des cadavres tout chauds encore, à un endroit où, dix minutes auparavant, nous n'avions rien vu. A tout cela le Major répondit que les soldats étaient mal élevés (" terbiésis ").

" Que voulez-vous que je fasse avec eux ? " ajouta-t-il. Je lui dis aussi qu'il y avait plusieurs blessés parmi les villageois, et qu'étant donnée la présence d'un médecin, il faudrait bien porter secours et les faire soigner. Il appela alors le médecin qui se trouvait là et qui, jusqu'à présent, n'avait soigné aucun villageois, et lui ordonna d'aller voir les blessés et de leur porter le secours nécessaire.

Là-dessus, je partis en ville. Sur le chemin je rencontrai beaucoup de gens armés et emportant des effets volés au village. Entre ces gens j'ai remarqué beaucoup de soldats qui avaient des sacs sur le dos remplis et d'autres qui avaient sur les épaules des tapis, couvertures et autres effets qu'ils avaient évidemment pillés au village. Comme escorte nous avions deux souvaris, Nicolas et Arif. Ce dernier, qui marchait devant moi, attira mon attention à un sac rempli et attaché à sa selle, que je n'avais pas aperçu le matin. J'eus des soupçons, et arrivé en ville j'allai au Konak, lui ordonnant de suivre avec son cheval. Là je fis part de mes soupçons au Capitaine Mehmed Effendi, qui, ouvrant le sac, en retira un rôle de soie de femme. Il questionna Arif, qui lui dit que c'était un asker qui la lui avait donnée. Je lui fis remarquer par le Capitaine Mehmed Effendi que, comme gendarme, il devait empêcher les askers de commettre des vols, et non pas y participer, en prenant une chose qu'il savait être volée. Je fis part, en outre, à Mehmed Effendi que j'avais vu le gendarme Mehmed frapper de la crosse et du canon de son fusil un paysan qu'il amenait à Hassan Effendi.

Du Konak je vous envoyai ma seconde dépêche, et, rentrant à la maison, je vous écrivis une lettre, que j'ai envoyée par la poste des gendarmes. Cette lettre contenait les faits les plus importants de l'événement. Après cela je repartis immédiatement sur les lieux où se trouvaient les autorités civiles et militaires, avec le Caïmacan Ahmed Faik Bey et le Lieutenant Ahmed Arif Bey en tête. Ces messieurs avaient commencé leur tournée par le village en ruines. Je les rattrapai, et, faisant part de ce que j'avais remarqué le matin au Caïmacan, je leur montrai les cadavres que j'avais déjà vus.

Avec le Caïmacan nous fîmes de nouvelles constatations.

Près du cadavre de Sevastika, fille de Goné Timo, nous avons trouvé mourant Eftim Poïcas, que j'avais vu vivant le matin et avec qui j'avais causé : il a été par conséquent blessé après notre départ d'un coup de fusil. Velko Yorghi, que nous avions vu blessé le matin, est mort des suites de sa blessure.

Dans une maison qui brûlait encore le matin on nous a montré les restes du cadavre de Noiltetze Ritah, membre du conseil du village. Le feu l'avait en partie carbonisé : il était à demi enseveli dans les décombres, couché sur le dos au seuil de la porte. La position du corps était telle que l'on pouvait admettre la possibilité qu'il avait été jeté au feu encore à moitié vivant.

Sur l'ordre du Caïmacan, Traiko Doné, blessé au ventre, et Kolé Potzno, blessé aux deux bras, ont été chargés sur deux chevaux et envoyés à la ville, pour y être soigné gratuitement par le médecin municipal.

Le Caïmacan, auquel j'avais raconté l'apparition de beaucoup de villageois Musulmans armés des villages environnants ce matin et leur fuite avec des animaux et effets volés, a bien voulu envoyer un agent de police et deux gendarmes pour faire

une perquisition à Svidovitça, et y arrêter tous ceux chez qui l'on trouvera quoi que ce soit de volé au village.

Ayant terminé la tournée, nous étions revenus au point de départ, quand un villageois vînt nous avertir qu'un cadavre gisait hors du village.

Le Caïmacan y envoya un commissaire de police, et mon Drogman, M. d'Obermayer, l'accompagna. En revenant, ils dirent que le cadavre a été reconnu comme celui de Spassé Craïco, blessé par une balle, qui, d'après ce qu'a dit sa femme, avait quitté la maison le même jour au matin.

En arrivant sur les lieux cet après-midi, j'avais été frappé par l'ordre qui y régnait. Des sentinelles, placées à de petites distances l'une de l'autre autour du village, ainsi qu'à l'intérieur, veillaient à ce qu'il ne se commette aucun crime, et devaient aussi probablement avoir pour devoir de ne pas laisser entrer les villageois armés pour piller, comme cela s'était passé le matin. Il y avait bien quelques curieux que le Caïmacan ordonna de faire éloigner, mais je n'ai plus revu de bachi-bouzoucks armés.

Je le répète, cette scène était tellement différente de celle que j'avais vue le matin que j'en étais frappé. On voyait que tout cela était préparé pour recevoir les autorités. Je trouve que les autorités auraient dû venir plus tôt, et ne pas avoir attendu jusqu'à ce qu'on se prépare pour les recevoir.

Lorsque je fis part au Caïmacan du désordre qui régnait le matin, des crimes qui s'y commettaient et de l'absence complète pour empêcher tous ces odieux excès, il me dit que le Major Mehmed Bey aurait dû être plus énergique et prendre au matin toutes les mesures qu'il avait prises maintenant, c'est-à-dire, placer des sentinelles et surveiller énergiquement de près les soldats.

Je leur dis que c'était aussi mon avis, et que j'avais fait remarquer à plusieurs officiers et au Major Mehmed lui-même la conduite indigne des troupes.

Le Caïmacan, de concert avec le Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey, jugeant la présence des troupes inutile, résolurent de les renvoyer en ville. C'est alors que le clairon commença à sonner pour rallier tous les soldats.

Ce ne fut pas facile et prit beaucoup de temps. Finalement on amena les soldats qui étaient restés au village et qui furent dénoncés par un villageois. Amenés, ils furent désarmés et arrêtés. A ce qu'il paraît, ces deux soldats, avant l'événement, avaient été en prison. Le Lieutenant-Colonel exprima son mécontentement au Major, de ce que ces hommes avaient été relâchés de la prison et pris sur les lieux; il ajouta: " Là où ils sont, il y a toujours de mauvaises choses " (" bok," son expression en Turc).

Je fis remarquer au Caïmacan que le village ruiné et les villageois qui s'y trouvaient ne pouvaient rester sans garde, car la nuit il pourrait y revenir des gens armés pour piller et commettre toutes sortes de crimes.

Le Caïmacan ordonne alors au Sergent de la Gendarmerie, Hassan Tchaoush, de rester avec quatre gendarmes qu'il avait avec lui au village, et de veiller à ce que personne n'y vienne la nuit surtout; il ajouta qu'en cas où quelqu'un faufilerait la nuit dans le village, il devrait tirer dessus si, après l'avoir prévu plusieurs fois, il ne répondait pas. Je lui fis dire de ma part, qu'ayant le village et les villageois, qu'il contenait à sa garde et à sa responsabilité, il devait, vu les circonstances sérieuses, redoubler d'attention. Il me répondit qu'il répondait du village et des villageois, et qu'il ferait son devoir. Les deux gendarmes qui avaient été envoyés à Svidovitça pour y perquisitionner devaient au retour rester à Kuklitch, et de cette manière le village serait gardé par un sergent et six gendarmes.

Là-dessus nous partîmes en ville, passant chez le Caïmacan pour nous réchauffer. Je profitai de cette occasion pour féliciter le Caïmacan et le Commandant Militaire, Arif Bey, qui était présent à l'occasion de la fête du Courban-Baïram. J'exprimai mon profond regret que cette fête fut troublée par des événements aussi tristes.

Rentré à la maison, je me mis à classer les notes que j'avais prises sur place, et inscrire les quelques détails que j'avais en tête et à vous écrire le présent Rapport.

En conclusion, et en rappelant à votre Excellence que le présent Rapport a été écrit sur des notes que j'ai prises sur place, et qu'il contient des faits dont j'ai été témoin, j'ajouterai:

La conduite des troupes, le matin du 4 Février (Vendredi) surtout, a été odieuse. J'affirme que les askers ont pillé, maltraité, battu, blessé, et assassiné des villageois, et même alors que le clairon sonnait le " ralliement," donc toute opération militaire avait dû prendre fin, d'autant plus que les bandits, d'après l'attestation du Lieutenant de la gendarmerie, Hassan Effendi, s'étaient déjà enfuis. Comme meilleure preuve je

cite le villageois Eftim Poïras, que j'avais vu le matin vivant, et que nous avons trouvé, avec le Caïmacan, mourant dans l'après-midi.

Mon opinion est que la plus grande responsabilité des suites malheureuses de l'événement retombe sur le Major Mahmoud Bey, qui commandait les troupes, et n'a pas pu prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher le pillage et les assassinats commis par ses subordonnés, les askers. Il est vrai que quand je lui fis remarquer que les soldats se partageaient les effets volés aux paysans il envoya son Lieutenant, Mahmoud Effendi, pour noter les noms des coupables et arrêter le pillage, mais je trouve qu'il aurait dû prendre des mesures, pas seulement dans le cas que je lui notais, car lorsque je n'étais pas à côté de lui pour lui montrer ce qui se passait, il ne voyait, ou ne voulait voir, ce que faisaient autour de lui ses soldats. Il serait intéressant de savoir si les noms qu'il a ordonnés de noter ont été effectivement inscrits, et s'il y a eu punition pour les coupables. Il est aussi sûr que le clairon avait sonné le "ralliement" le matin du 4 Février, mais les coups de feu continuèrent de partir de tous les côtés du village, et cela pendant plusieurs heures, sans que cela parût étonner ni émotionner le Major — mesure peu effective de donner l'ordre du ralliement sans s'occuper plus énergiquement si cet ordre est bien exécuté, surtout lorsqu'on entend des coups de fusil.

La réponse que me fit le Major lorsque je lui racontai les excès auxquels se laissaient aller les soldats montre assez que tout ce qui se passait dans l'intérieur du village où je ne l'ai pas vu entrer le matin du 4 Février ne l'étonnait point, ne l'émotionnait point, et qu'il ne voyait pas de grande nécessité de prendre des mesures énergiques: "Que voulez-vous ? ils sont si mal élevés."

La conduite des officiers des askers est tout aussi peu louable que la conduite de leurs subordonnés. Je dirai même plus: elle était indigne, car, comme officiers, c'est ceux qui devraient influencer les soldats à se comporter d'une manière honnête et digne. Mais, hélas ! il ne fallait pas attendre cela de leur part. Ils voyaient tout ce qui se passait et n'arrêtaient pas leurs hommes qu'en ma présence et quand je leur faisais remarquer les forfaits qui se passaient à leurs yeux. Un chef est toujours responsable de ses subordonnés, et comme tels ils sont très coupables.

Quant aux askers, tous les crimes possibles se commettaient par eux: vols et assassinats, je les affirme. Quant aux autres accusations, telles que viol de femmes et de jeunes filles, l'enquête me fournira peut-être des détails et des preuves.

J'ajouterai encore que si les askers se livraient à tous ces excès, c'est qu'ils ne sentaient aucun contrôle et aucun empêchement de la part de leurs chefs, et si on leur faisait quelques remarques légères, ils sentaient bien que ce n'était que pour la forme, parce que j'étais là.

Je ne puis dire que très peu de choses sur le commandant militaire de la place de Stroumnitza, le Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey; il est venu deux fois sur les lieux: la première fois le jour de mon arrivée et après moi; le Caïmacan m'avait dit qu'il l'avait envoyé chercher; et la seconde fois le 4 Février, dans l'après-midi, pendant les tournées à travers les ruines du village avec toutes les autorités.

On voyait qu'il tâchait de rejeter la responsabilité sur quelqu'un, et c'est après avoir causé quelques minutes avec lui que le Caïmacan me posa, le 3 Février, au soir, la question: "Voulez-vous qu'on fasse un assaut?" Je ne sais pas s'il a donné des instructions au Major et quelles sont-elles.

Le médecin militaire qui se trouvait sur les lieux a prouvé un manque absolu d'activité d'initiative et, je dirai plus, a manqué à son devoir, car le 4 Février, au matin, il était auprès de son Major, mais il ne s'est pas inquiété d'aller voir et de soigner les blessés qu'il devait y avoir et qu'il y avait effectivement dans le village.

Ce n'est que quand j'en fis la remarque au Major que ce dernier lui donna l'ordre d'aller voir le blessé que j'avais indiqué. Quant aux autres blessés, ils ne furent soignés que le lendemain par le médecin Chrétien qui arriva de Stroumnitza. Ainsi l'homme que nous avons trouvé avec une balle dans le ventre et l'autre avec les os de la main brisés et un bras blessé, n'ont pas été soignés par ce médecin, et c'est dans un état pitoyable qu'ils furent envoyés en ville par le Caïmacan lorsque je l'en priai et les lui montrai dans l'après-midi du 4.

Le Caïmacan a manqué d'énergie et d'initiative dans cette circonstance, n'attachant pas peut-être assez d'importance à l'événement, et n'a pas cherché à voir autre chose que ce qu'on lui montrait et, n'était pas mon récit des horreurs que j'ai vues, il n'en aurait peut-être pas pris connaissance. Quand je lui dis que j'avais vu emporté des effets par des askers, il me parla d'une enquête dans les casernes; mais je ne sais pas s'il en a parlé au Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey.

Il n'a émis son opinion sur le Major Mahmoud Bey, en disant qu'il trouvait, comme moi, que le matin du 4 Février il n'avait pas pris les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher l'action des soldats.

Sur la gendarmerie je ferai encore des enquêtes. Je puis affirmer, cependant, que la gendarmerie s'est conduite sur place, sans se rendre compte du rôle qu elle avait à jouer, c'est-à-dire, d'empêcher les excès des soldats.

Le Lieutenant Hassan Effendi n'a pris aucune mesure pour cela, et quand j'arrivai le matin et que, l'ayant cherché assez longtemps, je le trouvai, il me dit qu'il était bien fatigué et voulait même s'en aller en ville. Je lui dis que je ne le retenais pas, mais que moi, je resterais et ferais le tour du village. C'est alors qu'il me dit que son devoir était de m'accompagner, ce qu'il fit aussi, sans beaucoup d'empressement. Je l'accuse de ne pas avoir pris les mesures qu'il était de son devoir de prendre pour empêcher tout forfait de la part des askers; outre cela il aurait dû empêcher l'entrée des gens armés pour piller dans le village. Il ne s'est décidé que sur mon instance à arrêter quelques-uns de ces gens que je lui avais désignés. Il est vrai que tout ce que je lui conseillai de faire, il le faisait, mais de lui-même, en ma présence et jusqu'à mon arrivée, il n'a pris aucune mesure. Le seul fait qu'il voyait les soldats se partager les effets volés, tirer des corps de fusils après le ralliement et commettre tous leurs forfaits sans rien entreprendre pour les empêcher, prouve assez qu'il avait complètement oublié le rôle qu'il devait jouer comme chef de la gendarmerie sur la place. Il n'a pris des mesures contre ces crimes qu'en ma présence et sur mon instance, comme d'ailleurs tous les officiers militaires. Les quelques vols que j'ai vus commettre par des gendarmes prouvent assez clairement quel est le sentiment du devoir et de l'honnêteté qu'ont su leur inculper leurs chefs. Je ne parlerai pas de toutes les autres accusations, dont quelques-unes sont d'assassinats et d'avoir incendié des maisons, qui ne sont pas encore prouvées. Mais je rappèle à votre Excellence la réponse du sergent de l'école qui était en congé à Stroumnitza : " Yakdik " (" Nous l'avons brûlée "), et qu'il fit au Lieutenant Hassan Bey, sur sa demande, au sujet du sort d'une maison du village. Tout l'ensemble peut donner une idée de la conduite de la gendarmerie lors de l'événement. Le commandant de la compagnie, Capitaine Mehmed Effendi, rentra en ville quelque temps après mon arrivée sur place ; je ne puis donc rien dire de son attitude. Tout ce que je pouvais lui reprocher, c'est de ne pas être resté sur place, en envoyant son lieutenant en ville. Vu la gravité des circonstances, il aurait dû, comme supérieur, prendre la tâche la plus difficile, c'est-à-dire, rester à Kuklitch. J'ajouterai pour terminer que je continuerai la recherche des cadavres ; je m'attends à en trouver encore beaucoup, car dans une seule journée il m'a été difficile de tout voir. Je vous enverrai alors la liste des noms.

(Signé) Capitaine DU CIMETIÈRE.

(Translation.)

To his Excellency General Schostak :

IN continuation of my report, I have the honour to bring the following facts to your Excellency's notice.

The names of several Mussulman villagers met by Hassan Effendi and myself on the road, at the moment when laden with plunder and armed with guns and pistols they were returning to Svidovitça, are as follow :—

Mehmed Moustafa.
Kiso Haidar.
Hassan Brizar.

Moustafa Hassan, of Svidovitça.
Moustafa Ibrahim, of Hamzali.
} Arrested at my suggestion by Hassan Effendi, as they were captured with arms and plunder (various stolen articles).

Having at last arrived at the place where our horses were, I saw Major Mahmoud Bey, whom I had not caught sight of again since my arrival that morning. I made my Dragoman tell him all that I had seen of the conduct of the "askers," and called his attention to the fact that in spite of the "assembly" which had been sounded by the bugle, firing was still continued; I told him that the soldiers were left entirely to their own devices, and called his attention to the fact. I told him, moreover, that we had heard cries of "Aman! Aman!" that we had heard shots fired, that Hassan Effendi went out on the balcony of the house where we were and had called out to

the "askers" not to shoot, and finally that we had found bodies still warm at a spot where ten minutes before we had seen nothing. The Major replied to all this that the soldiers were "ill-disciplined."

"What can I do with them?" he added. I also told him that there were several wounded among the villagers, and that as a doctor was present, help should be brought to them and they should be cared for. He therefore called up the Doctor who was there, and who so far had rendered no assistance to the villagers, and ordered him to go and see the wounded and to give them the necessary assistance.

Thereupon I went into the town. On the way I met several armed persons carrying off articles stolen from the village. Among them I noticed several soldiers, who were carrying on their backs well-filled sacks, and others who had on their shoulders carpets, rugs, and other things which had evidently been looted from the village. As an escort we had two souvaris, Nicolas and Arif. The latter, who was marching in front of me, drew my attention to a sack filled and tied to his saddle which I had not observed in the morning. My suspicions were aroused, and on arrival in the town I went to the Konak, ordering him to follow me with his horse. I told Captain Mehmed Ali of my suspicions, and he opened the sack and drew out a bundle of silk such as women use. He questioned Arif, who replied that it had been given to him by an "asker." I told him, through Captain Mehmed Effendi, that being a gendarme he ought to prevent the "askers" from committing theft, and should not participate by taking something which he knew to have been stolen. I told Mehmed Effendi further that I had seen the gendarme Mehmed strike a peasant whom he was bringing to Hassan Effendi with the butt and barrel of his rifle.

From the Konak I sent you my second telegram, and on returning home I wrote you a letter which I sent by the gendarme post. This letter contained the most important details about the occurrence. After that I left again immediately for the places where the civil and military authorities were to be found, accompanied by the Kaïmakam Ahmed Faik Bey, and the Lieutenant Arif Ahmed Bey, who went in front. These gentlemen had commenced their round by the ruined village. I caught them up, and telling the Kaïmakam what I had noticed in the morning, I showed them the corpses which I had already seen.

We made fresh observations with the Kaïmakam.

Close to the body of Sevastika, daughter of Goné Timo, we found in a dying condition Eftim Poïcas, whom I had seen alive in the morning, and with whom I had conversed; he had, therefore, been wounded by a shot after our departure. Velko Yorghi, whom we had seen wounded in the morning, died from the effects of his wound.

In a house, which was still burning in the morning, we were shown the remains of the body of Noiltetze Ritah, a member of the village Council. He was partly charred by the flames, and was half buried among the ruins, lying on his back on the threshold of the door. The position of the body was such as to render it possible that he had been thrown only half dead into the flames.

By order of the Kaïmakam, Traiko Doné, wounded in the stomach, and Kole Potzno, wounded in both arms, were placed upon two horses and sent to the town to be attended to free of charge by the municipal doctor.

The Kaïmakam, to whom I narrated the appearance this morning of several Mussulman villagers from the surrounding villages with arms in their hands, and their flight with the stolen animals and property, sent a police agent and two gendarmes to make a search at Svidovitça, and to arrest all those who were found to be in possession of property stolen from the village.

Having finished the round, we had returned to the point of departure, when an inhabitant of the village came to inform us that there was one corpse lying outside the village.

The Kaïmakam sent a police inspector, and my dragoman, M. d'Obermayer, accompanied him. On their return they said that the body had been recognized as that of Spassé Craïco, who had been wounded by a bullet, and who, from what his wife said, had left his home on the morning of that same day.

On arrival at the spot in the afternoon, I was struck by the order which reigned there. Sentries placed at a little distance one from another round the village, as well as inside, looked out to see that no crime was committed, and they probably had been ordered not to allow any armed peasants to enter for the purpose of plundering, as had happened in the morning. There were a few persons who came from curiosity, whom the Kaïmakam ordered away, but I saw no more armed Bashi Bozouks.

I repeat that the scene was so different from that which I had witnessed in the

morning that I was struck by it. You could see that all had been prepared for the reception of the authorities. I consider that the authorities should have come sooner, and should not have waited till preparations had been made to receive them.

When I informed the Kaïmakam of the disorders which prevailed in the morning, the crimes which had been committed, and the total absence of authority to check these horrible excesses, he told me that Major Mehmed Bey ought to have shown more energy, and taken in the morning all those measures which he had now adopted, namely, posting sentries, and keeping close watch upon the soldiers.

I told them that I was also of that opinion, and that I had called the attention of several officers, and of Major Mehmed himself to the reprehensible conduct of the troops.

The Kaïmakam, in conjunction with Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey, considering the presence of troops useless, resolved to send them back to the town. The bugle was then sounded to assemble all the soldiers.

This was no easy task, and took some time. Finally they brought up the soldiers who had remained in the village, and who were denounced by one of the inhabitants. On being brought up they were disarmed and arrested. It appears that two of these soldiers before the occurrence had been in prison. The Lieutenant-Colonel expressed his dissatisfaction to the Major at their having been released from prison and taken to the spot. He added, "Wherever they are, mischief always occurs" ("bok" was his expression in Turkish).

I observed to the Kaïmakam that the ruined village and its inhabitants could not remain unguarded, as during the night people might return to plunder, and commit all sorts of crimes.

The Kaïmakam thereupon ordered the sergeant of the gendarmerie, Hassan Tchaoush, to remain with the four gendarmes he had with him in the village, and to prevent anyone approaching, especially at night. He added that if anyone succeeded in entering the village during the night he was to shoot, if after having been warned several times he did not reply. I told him for myself that, as he had the village and its inhabitants under his guard and responsibility he ought, in view of the serious circumstances of the case, to redouble his vigilance. He replied that he would answer for the village and the inhabitants, and that he would do his duty. The two gendarmes who had been sent to investigate at Svidovitça were on their return to remain at Kuklitch, and in this way the village would be guarded by a sergeant and six gendarmes.

Thereupon we left for the town, stopping on the way at the Kaïmakam's house to warm ourselves. I took this opportunity of congratulating the Kaïmakam and the Military Commandant, Arif Bey, who was present, on the occasion of the fête of Courban-Bairam. I expressed my deep regret that the fête had been disturbed by such a lamentable occurrence.

On returning home I set to work to sort the notes I had taken on the spot, to write down certain details which I had in my mind, and to write the present Report.

In conclusion, I would remind your Excellency that this Report has been written from the notes I took on the spot, and that it contains a record of facts of which I was personally the witness; I would add:—

The conduct of the troops, especially on the morning of the 4th February, was disgraceful. I affirm that the "askers" plundered, ill-treated, beat, wounded, and assassinated the village people, and even after the bugle had sounded the "assembly," at which all military operations should have ceased, especially as the brigands, according to the testimony of Gendarmerie Lieutenant Hassan Effendi, had already fled. As a more convincing proof I quote the case of the peasant Eftim Poiras, whom I had seen alive in the morning, and whom we, in company with the Kaïmakam, found dead in the afternoon.

My opinion is that the greatest responsibility for the unhappy consequences falls upon Major Mahmoud Bey, who commanded the troops, and did not take the necessary measures to put a stop to plundering and the murders committed by those under his command—the "askers." It is true that when I called his attention to the fact that the soldiers were dividing among themselves the articles stolen from the peasants, he sent his Lieutenant, Mahmoud Effendi, to note the names of the culprits and to stop plundering; but I consider he ought not to have taken steps only in the case to which I called his attention, for when I was not at his side to show him what was going on he did not, or would not, see what his soldiers were doing. It would be interesting to

know if the names he ordered to be noted were ever actually written down, and if the culprits were ever punished.

It is also a fact that the bugle had sounded the "assembly" on the morning of the 4th February, but shots continued to be fired from all sides of the village, and that too for several hours' duration without the Major appearing to be either surprised or moved. It is of small use to give the order to assemble without showing more energy in seeing the order carried out, especially when shots are to be heard.

The Major's reply, when I told him of the excesses committed by the soldiers, also proves that all that passed inside the village, which I did not see him enter on the morning of the 4th February, in no way surprised him, or moved him, and that he saw no urgent necessity for taking more energetic steps: "What do you expect? They are so ill-disciplined!"

The conduct of the officers of the "askers" is also as little praiseworthy as the conduct of their men. I will even go further, it was despicable, for it is the officers who ought to influence the soldiers to act in an honest and worthy manner. But, alas! that was not to be expected of them. They saw all that went on, and did not check their men except in my presence, and when I pointed out to them the outrages which were going on under their eyes. The Chief is always responsible for his subordinates, and as such they are extremely guilty.

As for the "askers," they committed every crime possible—thefts, murders, &c., I state it as a fact. As far as the other accusations go, such as the violation of women and girls, the inquiry will perhaps furnish me with more details and proofs.

I will again add that if the "askers" committed all these excesses it was because they felt no control and no restraining influence on the part of their officers, and if a few slight remarks were made to them they felt it was only done as a matter of form, because I was present.

I can only say very little about the Military Commandant of Stroumnitza, Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey. He came twice to the spot, the first time on the day of my arrival, but after me; the Kaïmakam told me he had sent to fetch him; and the second time on the 4th February in the afternoon, during the visit to the ruins of the village with all the authorities.

It was evident that he was endeavouring to throw the responsibility on somebody else, and after conversing a few minutes with him on the evening of the 3rd February the Kaïmakam asked me the following question: "Would you like an assault to be made?" I do not know what instructions, if any, he gave to the Major.

The army doctor who was on the spot showed an absolute lack of initiative and energy, and I will go further and say that he failed in his duty, for on the morning of the 4th February he was close to his Major, but he did not trouble himself to go and see and care for the wounded who must have been, and in fact were, in the village.

It was only when I spoke to the Major that he ordered him to go and attend to the wounded man I had indicated. As for the other wounded, they were only attended to the next day by the Christian doctor who came from Stroumnitza. In this way the man we found with a bullet in his stomach, and the other with the bone of his hand broken and wounded in the arm, were not attended to by this doctor, and they were sent in a deplorable condition to the town by the Kaïmakam when I asked him to do so, and pointed them out to him on the afternoon of the 4th.

The Kaïmakam lacked energy and initiative on this occasion, perhaps not attaching sufficient importance to the occurrence, and not trying to see anything but what was shown to him, and had I not recounted to him the horrors I had witnessed he would probably never have known anything about them. When I told him I had seen property being carried off by the "askers" he spoke of an inquiry in the barracks but I do not know whether he spoke to Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey on the subject.

He stated to me his opinion about Major Mahmoud Bey by saying that he considered, like myself, that on the morning of the 4th February he had not taken the necessary steps for restraining the action of the soldiers.

I will make further inquiries about the gendarmerie. I can, however, state as a fact that the gendarmerie on the scene lost sight of the part they were supposed to play, viz., to prevent the excesses of the soldiers.

Lieutenant Hassan Effendi took no steps for that object, and when I arrived in the morning, and, after looking for him for some time, found him, he told me he was very tired and wanted to go away into the town. I told him I would not detain him, but that I should stay and go round the village. He then told me that

it was his duty to accompany me, which he accordingly did, although not with much enthusiasm. I accuse him of not having taken the measures which it was his duty to take to prevent any excesses on the part of the "askers"; in addition he ought to have prevented armed persons from entering the village to plunder. It was only at my instigation that he decided to arrest some of the people I pointed out to him. It is true that he did everything I advised him to do, but on his own initiative, in my presence, or before my arrival, he did nothing. The fact alone that he saw the soldiers dividing up the stolen property, firing shots after the "assembly," and committing all sorts of excesses without doing anything to prevent them, proves that he had completely forgotten the rôle he should have played as head of the gendarmerie on the spot. He only adopted measures to stop these outrages when I was present and by my advice, as in fact all the military officers did. The few acts of theft I saw committed by the gendarmerie prove sufficiently what is the feeling of duty and honesty which their chiefs have cultivated in them. I will not mention all the other accusations, some of murders and some of setting fire to houses, which have not yet been proved. I will, however, recall to your Excellency the reply of the sergeant of the school, who was on leave at Stroumnitsa—"Yadik," ("We burnt it,") which he returned to Lieutenant Hassan Bey when he questioned him on the subject of the fate of one of the houses in the village. The whole of the facts taken together convey an idea of the conduct of the gendarmerie at the time of the occurrence.

The Company Commander, Captain Mehmed Effendi, returned to the town shortly after my arrival, I can therefore say nothing about his attitude. The only thing I can say against him is that he did not remain at his post and send his Lieutenant into the town. In view of the seriousness of the circumstances he ought, as superior officer, to have undertaken the more difficult task, viz., that of remaining at Kuklitch. I will add finally that I will continue the search for bodies; I expect to find several more, for it was difficult for me to see everything on one day. I will then send you the list of the names.

(Signed) Captain DU CIMETIÈRE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 46.

List of the Killed and Wounded in the Kuklitch Affair.

Tués.

1. Poïras Velko Christo.
2. Poïras Traïko Christo.
3. Pautcho Traïko.
4. Beker Christo Atanas.
5. Spaço Minko.
6. Poïras Eftim.
7. Elizabeth (Saveta) Eftimi.
8. Christo Boïko.
9. Atanas Nako.
10. Atanas Traïko.
11. Tane Anton.
12. Nake Nicolas Pootchevali.
13. Kotze Yorghi.
14. Christo Mitré.
15. Timtcho Atanas.
16. Constantin Traïko.
17. Mitré Karkach.
18. Yorghi Nicolas.
19. Kotze Dané.
20. Mitré Nicolas.
21. Atanas Yané.
22. Christo Atanas.
23. Lazar Atanas.
24. Spaço Traïko.
25. Donca Stoyan.
26. Christo Tacé Tchangar.
27. Velko Yorghi.
28. Christo Yorghi.
29. Miltcho Kitan.
30. Gligor Nicola (de Poptchevo).
31. Yorghi Mité.
32. Atanas Mité.
33. Kocabali Tomas.
34. Dimitrouch Tchpandali (garçon de 14 ans).
35. Stoyan Atanas (vieillard de 80 ans).
36. Enfant de onze mois, fils de Petro Traïko.

Blessés.

1. Yane Costa	.. ..	.. A la tête.
2. Elena Mité	.. ..	.. Au pied.
3. Eftim Mité	.. ..	.. Au dos (a traversé la ventre) et à la main.
4. Traïko Doné	.. ..	.. De derrière au côté.
5. Nikoli Potchko	.. ..	.. A la main.

Observations.—Un certain nombre de femmes ont sur le visage des vergettures et des ecchymoses

(Signé) Capitaine DU CIMETIÈRE.

(Translation.)

Killed.

1. Poïras Velko Christo.
2. Poïras Traïko Christo.
3. Pautcho Traïko.
4. Beker Christo Atanas.
5. Spaço Minko.
6. Poïras Eftim.
7. Elizabeth (Saveta) Eftimi.
8. Christo Boïko.
9. Atanas Nako.
10. Atanas Traïko.
11. Tane Anton.
12. Nake Nicolas Pootchevali.
13. Kotze Yorghi.
14. Christo Mitré.
15. Timtcho Atanas.
16. Constantin Traïko.
17. Mitré Karkach.
18. Yorghi Nicolas.
19. Kotze Dané.
20. Mitré Nicolas.
21. Atanas Yané.
22. Christo Atanas.
23. Lazar Atanas.
24. Spaço Traïko.
25. Donca Stoyan.
26. Christo Tacé Tchangar
27. Velko Yorghi.
28. Christo Yorghi.
29. Miltcho Kitan.
30. Gligor Nicola (of Poptchevo).
31. Yorghi Mité.
32. Atanas Mité.
33. Kocabali Tomas.
34. Dimitrouch Tchpandali (a boy of 14 years).
35. Stoyan Atanas (an old man of 80).
36. Child 11 months old, son of Petro Traïko.

Wounded.

1. Yane Costa .. .. .. In the head.
2. Elena Mité .. .. .. In the foot.
3. Eftim Mité .. .. .. In the back (a bullet passed through the stomach) and in the hand.
4. Traïko Doné .. .. .. Shot from behind in the side.
5. Nikoli Potchko .. .. .. In the hand.

Note.—A certain number of the women have wheals and scars on their faces.

(Signed) Captain DU CIMETIÈRE.

No. 47.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, communicating to me a summary of the note* which you addressed to the Turkish Ambassador on the subject of the proposed increase of the customs duties, I have the honour to report that at the interview I had yesterday with Tewfik Pasha, his Excellency expressed a desire that the French translation of that note should be read to me.

While pointing out to his Excellency that, pending a complete exchange of views between the different Governments interested, as well as between myself and the other Representatives of the Great Powers in this capital, the question had not reached a stage where it was possible advantageously to discuss it with him, I said that I had no objection to having the note in question read, or to hearing his Excellency's observations on it.

The latter, while expressing satisfaction at the fact that your Lordship did not oppose the principle of the suggested increase, objected to its acceptance being made conditional on the carrying out of a number of measures which the Imperial Government had signified its intention of adopting, but the elaboration and practical application of which necessarily demanded time, while the need of increased revenues, arising from the scheme of reforms which the Powers themselves were urging upon the Porte, would make itself immediately felt. He objected also to the suggestion that all or part of the surplus revenue accruing from the increased duties should be specially ear-marked for the purpose of assuring the execution of these reforms. The Imperial Government, his Excellency said in substance, had undertaken the reforms. By the arrangement it had entered into with the Ottoman Bank, it guaranteed also the payment into that institution of the sums necessary to meet the deficit in the Budget of the three vilayets (which he did not believe amounted to £ T. 800,000) by means of "Delegations" on the custom-house.

* No. 39.

What necessity was there therefore to make a special reservation of the increased customs revenues for the purpose of meeting this deficit, for which (according to the figures quoted by your Lordship) they would be inadequate, though they might on the other hand be more than sufficient, yielding a surplus which the Imperial Government would be justified in applying to other needs.

His Excellency admitted that he had anticipated the ready acceptance by the Powers of the financial reform scheme elaborated by the Porte in agreement with the Ottoman Bank, in substitution for that put forward by Austria and Russia, and that, if his expectations in this respect were ill-founded, his objections on the score of the delay that would result from the maintenance of your Lordship's reservations, would, to a great extent, fall to the ground.

I said that the Ministers were deluding themselves if they thought that the Powers would agree to an increase of the customs duty by 3 per cent. on the mere promise and assurance of the Imperial Government. There was not an Embassy that had not had proof that reliance should not be placed on these statements, and his Majesty's Government could, if the Porte desired it, furnish them with a formidable list of cases and claims in which the most formal promises of the Imperial Government had been repudiated. His Majesty's Government and, I doubted not, the other Governments would therefore insist upon guarantees that the extra customs duty should be appropriated to the needs and requirements of the Balkan provinces, and they would require the establishment of some administrative surveillance to make their demand effective. As to the precise form or shape which it would take, I was not yet in a position to speak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 48.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1905.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant respecting a statement in the press with regard to the conduct of Turkish troops in making domiciliary visits to villages, employing provocative methods and torture when carrying out perquisitions, I telegraphed to His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica for a report as to the facts.

Mr. Graves, in reply, stated that apart from the misconduct of Turkish troops at Kuklitch, which has been fully reported in the despatch from this Embassy of to-day, no specific allegations of the nature in question had been brought to his notice of late.

I will make further inquiries from other sources in touch with the circumstances in Macedonia as to how far these general accusations are well-founded, and I will make representations to the Turkish Government in accordance with your Lordship's instructions when I am in possession of such further information as I can obtain in support of my representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 49.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on the increased activity of the revolutionary Committees in that vilayet.

From Monastir the Acting British Consul reports that on the 14th February last a certain Risté Traitché and his son, inhabitants of Velushina, and both noted for the propaganda carried on by them in favour of the Patriarchate, were murdered within half-an-hour's distance from Monastir.

Mr. Shipley states that the funeral of the victims was made the occasion of an imposing demonstration by the members of the Greek community; and is of opinion that Risté and his son had become marked men with the Exarchist party on account of their devotion to the Greek cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, February* 28, 1905.

I BEG to report that the past month has been marked by a certain increased activity on the part of the Committees, due no doubt to the decreased severity of the weather.

On the 6th fifteen Komitajis were discovered and surrounded in a house at Ibrahim Keui, where they wounded a zaptieh. The officer in command of the troops, wishing to avoid useless loss of life, contented himself with blockading the village and sending to Uskub for two guns. In the night the band escaped. The officer was later arrested.

On the 10th a conflict occurred between Nikishtak and Orlantza between Albanians and Servian Komitajis, in which the latter lost three killed and one prisoner. Some bombs were taken, and it is said that two Albanian children were wounded by one of these during the fight.

At Adjarlar a Komitaji was arrested, and near Zeleniko two were shot at a Turkish village while seeking bread.

On the 18th the Palanka was ambushed near Orah. The sergeant and three zaptiehs who formed the escort were wounded. The mails were saved by the timely arrival of two armed soldiers.

On the 21st a band of eleven was discovered at Kutlibey, in the house of a certain Kyria, where they killed a soldier and then fled in the direction of Pezovo, where they were engaged by a detachment of troops and annihilated, together with Kyria.

Other crimes reported are as follows:—

At Oblavtsi, Khan Lajar, son of Yanni Gencho, murdered by Turks.

Efrem Taseff, killed by Turks near Staro-Gorachino.

Eliaso, killed by Turks near Mlado-Gorachino while on his way to Sternovetz.

Yorghé Petrushoff, killed while going to Dobrushan mill, and Ivan Kratovski, killed near Skarkovché.

Yovan Pechinoff, aged 86, of Stenché, disappears while going to church. Found later near village, dead and partially burnt.

At Boyanofche, a Christian shot by Turks.

At Creshevo, a zaptieh badly wounded. Soon after, three Christians returning from the neighbouring mountain met by Turks and killed.

At Veisbey, a zaptieh shot by persons unknown.

Three Bulgars leaving Koumanova market ambushed and shot fifteen minutes outside the town. This act is said to be one of revenge on the part of the Committees, as the victims had performed transport duties for the military authorities.

Four Bulgars killed on the Kratova road, according to the local authorities, by Servian Komitajis.

At Kalkandelen an individual, arrested in the street, was found to be carrying six bombs. He is to be brought before the Extraordinary Tribunal at Uskub.

Two Bulgarian schoolmasters have been carried off from Arbanashka and Bailovtzi by a Servian band.

At Keshana, the father of Pop Kerasim has been murdered by Komitajis (?).

Pop Petré murdered by unknown persons while returning from Gradetz.

At Harmanli, a Bulgar has been murdered.

At Hassan Bey Keui, a Bulgarian "semitji" has been shot by Turks.

At Liubantsa, a Bulgar has been murdered, it is supposed, by Serbs.

Seven additional battalions of infantry are reported to be expected, of which four are destined for Yeni Bazar and three for Sienitsa. Also eight batteries of artillery, to be distributed as follows: Uskub, two; Palanka, Kochana, Kratova, Kulashin, and "destination not yet decided," two.

The six additional Austrian gendarmerie officers signed their contracts on the 11th February, and left a few days later for the kazas.

The Vali tells me that the troops available are to be divided up in small detachments among the villages in the hopes of checking the activity of the Committees.

The carrying of arms by Moslems seems to be becoming general again, and I have met armed men a few minutes outside the town.

This morning a Christian policeman was wounded in the bazaar by a local Moslem ne'er-do-well.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

P.S.—A telegram has just arrived that the Servians of Koumanova have murdered Pop Alexander, the Bulgarian Vicar-General of that town.

H. E. S.

No. 50.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 8, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, inclosing a Memorandum* of the reply which the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments intended to make to the Sublime Porte's proposal to increase the customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent. in order to make proper financial provision for the administration of the Macedonian vilayets, I have the honour to report that this communication was made by the two Embassies to the Ottoman Government on the 2nd instant.

The Sublime Porte has now sent in, under date of the 5th March, to the Austrian and Russian Embassies a proposal of their own for the financial administration of Macedonia, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

This counter-project presents an elaborate scheme of complete financial decentralization for the three Macedonian vilayets. It requires the preparation of a detailed budget of revenue and expenditure for each kaza, lays down that all revenue not hypothecated to railway guarantees or loans is to be appropriated solely to local requirements, and compels the fiscal officials to furnish the local branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank with a full statement of all receipts and expenditure, all balances remaining after the expenditure has been defrayed to be paid into the Bank at the end of each month. No expenditure may, however, actually be incurred, though figuring on the budget, without having been previously checked and countersigned by the local agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, to which all vouchers are to be submitted for examination. If the proposed expenditure does not figure in the budget, or exceeds the provision made, the Bank will refuse to sanction it. The Bank is charged with the payments for the rations of the troops, and for all other military expenditure, and is to countersign all payments for civil salaries and pensions. If the budget of the vilayet shows a deficit, the Minister of Finance is to make good the deficiency by drafts on the Customs Administration, any surplus remaining after all payments have been made in full is remitted to the Imperial Ottoman Treasury. The Bank undertakes, if necessary, to make advances up to the sum of £T. 100,000, receiving 7 per cent. interest, and a commission of one-half per cent. on all payments made in respect of the financial service of the three vilayets will be allowed it.

It follows from the foregoing that, while all the unappropriated revenues of the three provinces are, by this arrangement, devoted in the first instance to defraying the expenses of the local administration, both civil and military, the surplus (if any) is to be paid into the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which is invested with the full right of control over all expenditure to be made by the fiscal officials, and will refuse its sanction if such expenditure is not provided for in the budget. Should the budget show a deficit, it is to be made good by drafts on the Central Customs Administration. No provision is, however, made for the case in which the revenue, though figuring on the budget as sufficient, turns out in reality to fall short of the expenditure. And though it is clearly stated in Article 11 that the entire revenues of the three vilayets are to be paid in to the branches of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the wording

* No. 38.

of Article 3 would seem to imply that it is only the surplus of receipts over expenditure which is to be so paid in.

In any case, the Regulations contain no guarantee, beyond the mere statement of the Porte, that the revenue will be so paid to the Bank. As it is established that the budget of the three vilayets at present shows an annual deficit of from £ T. 700,000 to £ T. 800,000, recourse must be had to the expedient provided for in Article 12 of bills drawn on the Central Customs Administration. It happens that the requisite sum very nearly corresponds with the total estimated yield of the additional 3 per cent. which it is proposed to add to the import duties—of which addition, however, one-fourth is assigned to the Public Debt. Even if the augmented customs duties produce, as some experts estimate, a far more considerable increment, neither the Decree of Mouharrem nor the "Décret-Annexe" provide the machinery by which this revenue is to be transferred from the Customs to the Public Debt: some difficulty in the mere calculation of the amount is anticipated, owing to the fact that the receipts of various custom-houses are already appropriated to the Customs Loan, and some measure of control is likely to become necessary if the Public Debt Administration is to count on its proper share from this source.

In conclusion, the arrangement eliminates all mention of foreign control, thereby depriving it of the only security or safeguard that its terms will be properly complied with, and leaving its execution entirely to the discretion of the Ottoman authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Note communicated by the Ottoman Government to the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Ambassadors.

PAR leur communication en date du 4 (17) Janvier dernier, leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie ont bien voulu communiquer à la Sublime Porte un projet de Règlement concernant la gestion financière des Vilayets de Salonique, de Cossovo, et de Monastir.

En élaborant le Règlement et en le recommandant à l'attention du Gouvernement Impérial, leurs Excellences n'avaient en vue que d'assurer le bon fonctionnement des services financiers des dites provinces, conformément au Chapitre VII du programme de Février 1903.

Or, s'imposant précisément de l'intention qui avait dicté cette clause du dit programme, la Sublime Porte avait mis à l'étude un Règlement qui pût satisfaire à toutes les exigences, sans porter atteinte aux principes que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a jamais manqué de sauvegarder et que les Puissances elles-mêmes ont toujours eu à cœur de respecter. Ce Règlement, qui vient d'être arrêté avec la Banque Impériale Ottomane, devant entrer en vigueur à partir du 1er (14) Mars de l'année courante, la Sublime Porte a l'honneur d'en transmettre ci-près le texte à MM. les Ambassadeurs et a la ferme et intime conviction que leurs Excellences voudront bien reconnaître qu'il répond parfaitement au but poursuivi.

Comme, cependant, les revenus actuels des trois provinces ne suffisent pas pour assurer le paiement régulier de tous les services, ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le nouvel arrangement conclu avec la Banque Impériale Ottomane, la Sublime Porte s'est vue obligée de proposer une majoration de 3 pour cent sur les droits de douane dans l'Empire afin de pouvoir faire face à ces nouvelles charges.

Le Gouvernement Impérial aime à espérer que, prenant en considération l'urgence qu'il y a à donner une prompte solution à cette question, leurs Excellences les Ambassadeurs voudront bien obtenir au plus tôt l'adhésion définitive de leurs Gouvernements à la majoration proposée.

Le 5 Mars, 1905.

(Translation.)

THEIR Excellencies the Ambassadors of Austria-Hungary and Russia communicated to the Sublime Porte, in their note of the 4th (17th) January last, a draft scheme relating to the financial administration of the Vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir.

In elaborating this scheme and in recommending it to the attention of the Imperial Government, their Excellencies only contemplated securing the regular working of the financial administrations of the above-mentioned provinces, in accordance with Chapter VII of the programme of February 1903.

Now the Sublime Porte, with the same idea of carrying out the intention which underlay this clause of the above-mentioned programme, had caused a scheme to be studied which, while meeting all the requirements of the situation, would not infringe the principles which the Imperial Government have never failed to safeguard, and which the Powers themselves have always been desirous of respecting. As this scheme, which has just been agreed upon with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, must come into force on the 1st (14th) of March of this year, the Sublime Porte has the honour to transmit the text of it to the Ambassadors herewith, and is firmly and assuredly convinced that their Excellencies will recognize that the scheme corresponds in every respect to the end in view.

As, however, the present revenues of the three provinces do not suffice to guarantee the regular payment of all the departments, as stipulated in the new Agreement concluded with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Sublime Porte is compelled to propose an increase of 3 per cent. in the customs duties of the Empire, in order to meet these fresh expenses.

The Imperial Government trusts that, in view of the urgent necessity of arriving at a final solution of this question, their Excellencies the Ambassadors will be so good as to obtain as soon as possible the definite consent of their Governments to the proposed increase.

March 5, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Regulation as to Method of Collecting and Payment of Receipts and Expenses for the Three Vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir.

ARTICLE 1er. Le Ministère des Finances remettra à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, au moins un mois avant le 1er (14) Mars de chaque année, une copie détaillée du budget qui devra être dressé pour chacun des trois Vilayets de Salonique, Cossovo, et Monastir. Ce document indiquera en détail les recettes et les dépenses de diverse nature de chaque vilayet.

Il sera annexé à chacun de ces budgets un état indiquant la répartition des recettes et des dépenses par circonscriptions administratives du vilayet, c'est-à-dire par sandjiak et caza.

Un double de ces documents devra, naturellement, être remis, en temps utile, à chaque Mouhassébedji et Mal-Mudiri pour ce qui le concerne.

Art. 2. Les revenus de toute nature, sauf ceux affectés à divers emprunts et aux garanties des chemins de fer, seront appliqués, en premier lieu, aux besoins de l'Administration locale, y compris les paiements afférents aux services civil et militaire.

Art. 3. La comptabilité des recettes et des dépenses de chaque vilayet sera centralisée à l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie au chef-lieu du vilayet.

En conséquence, le Mal-Mudiri de chaque caza transmettra, en fin de mois, au Mouhassébedji de son sandjiak un bordereau récapitulatif de toutes ses opérations, ses pièces de dépenses, et l'excédent de ses recettes, accompagné d'un relevé spécial indiquant les espèces de monnaies, relevé dûment muni de son cachet et de celui du sous-Gouverneur (Caïmacam).

Le Mouhassébedji, de son côté, transmettra à l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane les pièces justificatives à lui transmises par les Mal-Mudiris du sandjiak avec leurs bordereaux. Il y joindra un état récapitulatif des recettes et les pièces justificatifs des paiements qu'il aura lui-même effectués pour les dépenses du caza du chef-lieu du sandjiak. Après prélèvement des sommes nécessaires aux dites dépenses du chef-lieu du sandjiak, il versera à la dite agence les excédents des recettes qui lui auront été remis par les Mal-Mudiris, avec un relevé spécial indiquant les espèces de monnaies, relevé muni de son cachet et de celui du Gouverneur (Mutessarif).

Art. 4. La comptabilité centrale du vilayet sera immédiatement avisée par les Mouhassébedjis des versements qu'ils effectueront aux agences de la Banque

Impériale Ottomane, et copie lui sera donnée du relevé des dépenses et des recettes du chef-lieu du sandjiak et des cazas en dépendant.

Art. 5. Les sommes envoyées des cazas dépendant du sandjiak du chef-lieu du vilayet seront versées le jour même avec les recettes du chef-lieu du vilayet à l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Art. 6. Les dépenses inscrites au budget seront ordonnancées par les autorités compétentes de chaque circonscription, mais ne pourront être payées qu'après visa, pour vérification, des agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

A cet effet les dites autorités transmettront à l'agence les documents afférents aux paiements à faire; celle-ci les examinera de suite et les renverra le lendemain après les avoir revêtus de son visa.

Dans les cas où l'agence constaterait que les paiements proposés ne sont pas inscrits au budget ou dépassent les crédits budgétaires, elle refusera son visa et renverra les dits documents à l'Inspecteur-Général, avec les motifs de son refus.

Art. 7. Les dépenses inscrites au budget sous la rubrique "Dépenses imprévues," qui auraient un caractère d'urgence, pourront être effectuées dans les limites budgétaires, sans que les pièces justificatives aient été préalablement envoyées au visa de l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane; mais l'autorité compétente devra immédiatement après faire viser par l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane la dépense effectuée dans ces conditions.

Art. 8. La comptabilité des recettes et des dépenses du vilayet sera tenue à l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane sur des registres dont le modèle sera établi par la Banque, après entente avec l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets qui prescrira aux Defterdars de tenir, de leur côté, une comptabilité identique.

Art. 9. L'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane portera au crédit du compte du vilayet les sommes versées soit en numéraire, soit en pièces justificatives de dépenses, en indiquant les espèces; elle en délivrera un récépissé à la comptabilité centrale du vilayet. Simultanément, elle passera au débit du compte le montant des pièces de dépenses comprises dans les versements.

Les pièces justificatives des dépenses qui auront été transmises à l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, dans le courant du mois, conformément aux prescriptions de l'Article 3, seront restituées à la comptabilité centrale du vilayet qui aura à lui remettre, en échange, une reconnaissance d'un montant égal au total des dites pièces de dépenses.

Art. 10. L'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane dans chaque vilayet sera chargé du paiement des rations des troupes Impériales qui se trouveront dans le vilayet.

Les paiements seront effectués, dans les limites du budget, sur délégation de la comptabilité centrale du vilayet. Ces délégations devront être accompagnées des pièces justificatives émises par les autorités militaires.

Toutes les autres dépenses militaires du vilayet seront également payées par l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, dans les limites budgétaires, sur production de pièces justificatives de même nature.

Les affectations et les traitements militaires et la solde des troupes seront payées mensuellement aux autorités militaires, après le visa des agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, en même temps que les traitements de tous les fonctionnaires civils du vilayet, et les pensions de tous les retraités.

Aucun paiement particulier ne sera permis.

Art. 11. La totalité des revenus des trois vilayets devant être remis à la succursale de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, celle-ci en prélèvera les 5 pour cent destinés aux travaux publics du vilayet et en effectuera le paiement contre des reçus délivrés par la Banque Agricole.

Art. 12. Si le budget général du vilayet ne se balance pas en recettes et en dépenses, et qu'il laisse apparaître une insuffisance de revenus, il y sera pourvu au moyen de traites qui seront fournis par le Ministère des Finances sur l'Administration Générale des Contributions Indirectes, et dont le montant sera payé à la Banque Impériale Ottomane en douze versements mensuels égaux.

Art. 13. Toute somme qui restera disponible à la clôture définitive des comptes de l'année financière, après complet paiement sur les recettes locales des traitements des fonctionnaires civils, militaires, judiciaires et financiers, ainsi que de toutes les dépenses locales et militaires, sera envoyée au Trésor Impérial.

Art. 14. Tout fonctionnaire qui agira contrairement à ce Règlement sera tenu responsable.

Art. 15. Dans le cas où les agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane auront des

plaintes à formuler contre les fonctionnaires financiers locaux, soit du chef de la non-application des dispositions de ce Règlement, soit à cause des difficultés qui seraient soulevées dans les opérations financières y relatives, elles auront à en saisir immédiatement l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets. Celui-ci prendra en considération les dites plaintes et procédera d'office aux mesures et aux sanctions nécessaires.

Art. 16. La Banque Impériale Ottomane ne s'engage à assurer les paiements budgétaires des trois vilayets que dans la proportion des recouvrements opérés. Toutefois, pour faciliter le service public aux époques où les rentrées d'impôts seraient faibles, la Banque Impériale Ottomane consent à payer les dépenses budgétaires jusqu'à concurrence d'un découvert de £ T. 100,000. Il est entendu que les sommes figurant au débit du compte des trois vilayets porteront intérêt à 7 pour cent l'an.

Art. 17. Conformément au dernier paragraphe de l'Article 9 du Règlement du 5 (17) Février, 1875, il sera alloué à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, pour l'indemniser des débours spéciaux qu'elle aura à supporter en vue d'assurer le service financier dans les trois vilayets, une commission de ½ pour cent sur les paiements seulement.

Une provision suffisante sera inscrite à cet effet dans le budget général de chaque vilayet.

Art. 18. L'Inspecteur-Général, et, en son absence, le Gouverneur-Général, et la Banque Impériale Ottomane sont d'orès et déjà autorisés à prendre d'un commun accord les mesures nécessaires pour la mise à exécution du présent Règlement.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 1. At least one month before the 1st (14th) March each year, the Ministry of Finance will transmit to the Imperial Ottoman Bank a detailed copy of the Budget which is to be prepared for each of the three vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir. This document will indicate in detail the various receipts and expenditure in each vilayet.

Each of these three Budgets will be accompanied by a statement indicating the apportionment of revenue and expenditure among the administrative districts of the vilayet, *i.e.*, sanjak and Kaza.

Duplicates of these documents will, of course, be furnished at a sufficiently early date to the competent Muhassébeji and Malmudiri.

Art. 2. Revenues of every kind, except those set apart for the service of various loans and railway guarantees, will primarily be applied to the requirements of local administration, including the payments allotted to the civil and military services.

Art. 3. The accounts of receipts and expenditure for each vilayet will be co-ordinated at the local agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, in the capital of the vilayet.

The Malmudiri of each Kaza will, therefore, at the end of the month, furnish the Muhassébeji of his sanjak with a recapitulatory statement of all his transactions, his vouchers, and the balance of his receipts, together with a special statement, showing the amount of cash, duly furnished with his seal and with that of the Kaimakam.

The Muhassébeji, in his turn, will transmit the vouchers and statements received from the Malmudiris of the sanjak to the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. He will annex a recapitulatory statement of receipts and the vouchers of payments he has made himself on behalf of the Kaza of the capital of the sanjak. After deducting the sums requisite to cover these payments for the capital of the sanjak, he will transmit to the above-named agency the balance of receipts forwarded to him by the Malmudiri, together with a special statement of cash sealed by himself and by the Governor (Mutessarif).

Art. 4. The Central Financial Administration of the vilayet will be informed without delay by the Muhassébejis of the sums paid by them into the agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and will receive a copy of the statement of expenses and receipts of the capital of the sanjak and the Kazas dependent upon it.

Art. 5. The sums sent from the Kazas of the sanjak in which the capital of the vilayet is situated will be paid into the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank on the same day as the receipts of the capital of the vilayet.

Art. 6. Expenses figuring in the Budget will be sanctioned by the competent authorities in each administrative district, but they cannot be paid until they have been *visé*, for verification purposes, by the agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

For this purpose the said authorities will transmit to the agency the documents

relating to the payments to be made; the latter will examine them forthwith and return them next day duly *visé*.

If the agency decides that the proposed payments do not figure in the Budget, or exceed the amounts sanctioned therein, it will refuse its *visa*, and will return the said documents to the Inspector-General with the reasons for its refusal.

Art. 7. Expenses of an urgent nature, and entered in the Budget under the title "Unforeseen Expenditure," may, within the limits of the Budget, be incurred without the vouchers having previously been sent to the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for its *visa*. In such cases the competent authority must have the payment in question *visé* by the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank immediately afterwards.

Art. 8. The accounts of receipts and expenditure for the vilayet will be kept at the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in registers, the pattern of which will be settled upon by the Bank, after arriving at an understanding with the Inspector-General of the three vilayets, who will instruct the Defterdars to keep corresponding accounts.

Art. 9. The agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will place to the credit of the account of the vilayet the sums paid in, either in specie or in the form of vouchers for expenses incurred, indicating in each case their nature. It will hand a receipt to the central financial administration of the vilayet. At the same time it will debit the account with the total amount of the vouchers of expenses included in the payments.

The vouchers of expenditure transmitted to the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in the course of the month, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, will be returned to the central financial administration of the vilayet in exchange for a receipt covering the total amount accounted for in the vouchers.

Art. 10. The agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in each vilayet will be intrusted with the payment for the rations of the Imperial troops in the vilayet.

The payments will be made, within the limits of the Budget, by order of the Central Financial Administration of the vilayet. These orders must be accompanied by vouchers issued by the military authorities.

All other military expenditure of the vilayet will be paid, within the limits of the Budget, and on production of vouchers of the same kind, also by the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Military allowances and salaries, and the pay of the troops will be issued monthly to the military authorities, after the *visa* of the agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank has been given, at the same time as the salaries of all the civil officials of the vilayet, and the pensions of retired public servants.

No private payment will be permitted.

Art. 11. The sum total of the revenues of the three vilayets being transmitted to the branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the latter will deduct 5 per cent. therefrom, destined for the Public Works of the vilayet, and will pay this sum in return for receipts given by the Agricultural Bank.

Art. 12. If the general Budget of the vilayet does not balance, and shows an insufficiency of revenue, this will be met by drafts furnished by the Minister of Finance on the Department of Indirect Taxation, the amount of which will be issued to the Imperial Ottoman Bank in twelve equal monthly payments.

Art. 13. Any surplus at the end of the financial year, after the accounts for the financial year have been definitely closed and the local receipts have been employed to pay in full the salaries of civil, military, judicial and financial officials, and to meet all local and military expenses, will be transmitted to the Imperial Treasury.

Art. 14. Any official infringing these Regulations will be held responsible.

Art. 15. If the agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank have any complaints to make against local financial officials, either on account of not carrying out the provisions of this scheme, or on account of difficulties raised in connection with financial operations relating thereto, they must at once approach the Inspector-General of the three vilayets upon the subject. He will take the complaints in question into consideration, and will, in virtue of his office, take the necessary steps and issue the necessary authorizations.

Art. 16. The Imperial Ottoman Bank does not undertake to guarantee the payments of the three vilayets authorized in the Budget, except to the amount of the revenues received, but it is none the less prepared, in order to facilitate the regular working of the administration at times when the receipts from taxes are small, to pay the expenses authorized in the Budget to the extent of a deficit

not exceeding £T. 100,000. It is understood that the sums forming a debit in the accounts of the three vilayets will bear interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Art. 17. In accordance with the last paragraph of Article 9 of the Regulation of the 5th (17th) February, 1875, the Imperial Ottoman Bank will receive a commission of ½ per cent. on the payments alone to indemnify it for the special expenses which it will have to incur in order to guarantee the financial service of the three vilayets.

Sufficient provision for this purpose will be made in the general budget of each vilayet.

Art. 18. The Inspector-General, and, in his absence, the Governor-General, and the Imperial Ottoman Bank are authorized conjointly to take the necessary steps forthwith to carry out these Regulations.

No. 51.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 8, 1905.*

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch of the 28th January last and my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, relative to the murders of the Bulgarian and Servian Vicars-General of Koumanova, and reporting grave irregularities which have occurred in the trial of the persons accused of the latter crime.

I have suggested to His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica that he should speak to Hilmi Pasha, the Inspector-General of the three Macedonian vilayets, on the subject of this trial, and propose to await the receipt of Mr. Graves' report before making representations to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, March 1, 1905.*

IN correction of the postscript of my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I beg to report that the murderers of the Bulgarian Vicar-General of Koumanova were two young Mussulmans, Yasha, of Yasentsa, and Khalil of Koumanova, who came out of the Servian school. A telegram to the Bulgarian Metropolitan speaks of a third assassin, a Serb, who escaped, but this is not confirmed by the report received by the Vali. In any case, it is difficult not to believe that the Servians, fearing to do the deed themselves, hired desperadoes to do it for them.

It is needless to point out the lamentable effect which this crime will have on the relations between the two rival nationalities, coming as it does at a moment when Bulgarian sentiment is particularly irritated by the results of the trial of the assassins of the Servian Vicar-General.

I believe that it would be most beneficial that any persons proved guilty of this crime should be hanged, but after a trial which should be beyond suspicion.

From further information which I have obtained, it seems abundantly clear that a revision of the present case is urgently needed, in view of the many irregularities of procedure which occurred.

These are briefly as follows:—

1. The indecent haste with which the case was rushed through, as the constitution of the Extraordinary Court was not notified in the press, and the trial, announced on the 19th as fixed for the 21st, was actually commenced on the 20th, so that the lawyers for the defence had no time to get up the case.

2. Unsatisfactory evidence, which was throughout contradictory, as, according to the witnesses, mostly Servians, all the accused had committed the crime. It is hard to grasp on what principle the Court allotted the penalties to principals and accomplices.

3. Refusal to accept the lawyer and witnesses for the defence, the latter on the ground that the second lawyer, appointed on the very day, should have given notice of his witnesses twenty-four hours earlier.

4. The haste with which the decision was taken in the deliberation room, when the Christian members especially were rushed into acquiescing to a verdict of guilty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 52.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Sophia, March* 6, 1905.

IN the course of conversation this morning on the subject of the present situation in Macedonia, General Petroff very openly expressed his sympathy with what he describes as the efforts of the Bulgarians to protect themselves against the tactics of the Turks in countenancing and openly supporting the Greek bands in their attacks on Bulgarian villagers, and he instanced in particular, the recent occurrences at Marvintsa, Koklush, and Negovan. The Turks were showing the greatest partiality to the Greeks, who, when guilty of acts of aggression and outrage, ought to be punished with the same severity as the Bulgarian bands. The Bulgarian Government could not look on with indifference at such one-sided conduct, and felt themselves entitled to expect that the same treatment should be meted out to Greeks and Bulgarians alike. So long as this state of affairs continued there could be no hope of restoring tranquillity.

I fear that it is probable that, if the Turks pursue the policy ascribed to them by General Petroff, the Bulgarian Government will be tempted to relax their efforts to prevent the Komitajis from crossing from this country into Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 53.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Sophia, March* 7, 1905.

IN reply to the despatch of the 28th ultimo, in which your Lordship was so good as to ask for my observations on a communication from the Ottoman Ambassador in London,* to the effect that the chiefs of the various Bulgarian Revolutionary Committees have come to an understanding for united action in the spring, I have the honour to remark that the statements therein contained were supplied by the Ottoman Commissioner in Sophia, probably on information obtained from the Servian Agent; the account, however, as given to your Lordship by Musurus Pasha has clearly been written by some one unfamiliar with the names of the Bulgarian leaders and even with the Macedonian movement. For instance, the name of Guerdjikoff is written as Kertchikoff, Passoff as Bassoff, and Matoff as Maloff, while Gheurdjé, which is obviously the Christian name Geurtcho of the well-known leader Petroff, next in the list, is taken to be the name of a distinct person. Again, the mention of Mihailovsky and Stoyanoff in juxtaposition with those of Yankoff and Tsoncheff, conveys the impression that the writer believes them to be still active adherents of the movement, whereas it is common knowledge that both have practically withdrawn from it for some time past.

So far as I can learn, Sarafoff and his friends (who are confining their attention to the Servian bands) are still working independently of the "Organisation Intérieure," and this seems to be confirmed by the fact that he has in the last few days issued a sort of Proclamation in his own name. There is, however, nothing improbable in the supposition that there is an understanding between him and the other Komitaji leaders as to the general action to be taken during the coming season.

General Petroff, whom I questioned this morning, says that he is not aware that any change has been made in the general system of the "Organisation Intérieure;"

* See No. 29.

ever since its creation Macedonia has been divided up into districts, and a Committee formed of Delegates from these districts had occasionally met, though more often such Conferences as have been held were between the more prominent leaders of bands. His Excellency was quite certain that the Bulgarian Komitajis had no intention of renewing the struggle this year against the Turks directly, but the bands would be formed again and would actively "protect themselves," as his Excellency expressed it, against the aggression of the Greeks supported by the Ottoman authorities. The statement in the Turkish communiqué as to the intentions of the bands may therefore be taken as being generally correct, but I cannot hear of any evidence whatever in confirmation of the assertion that they are receiving assistance from the Bulgarian Government, except a report given by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, that the municipality of that town have provided a quantity of clothing to Colonel Yankoff.

There appear to be at the present moment three fairly distinct groups among the leaders of bands in Macedonia proper, besides those who were operating in the Adrianople Vilayet last year. Thus there is the Tsoncheff group, of which the best known members are Colonels Nicoloff and Yankoff; then there are the two sections of the "Organisation Intérieure," *i.e.*, that identified with the name of Tatarcheff, which, besides such well-known leaders as Matoff, Pero Tosheff, and Damien Grueff, includes also those of Doreff, Lanzantcheff, Trenkoff, and Alzeff; and that composed of Sarafoff's followers, of whom the most notorious are Tchakalaroff and Guertcho Petroff. These two groups, especially the latter, are but slightly controlled by the Committee at Sophia.

The leaders in the Adrianople district are said to be Guerdjikoff, Passoff, Stephanoff, and Azoff; they are known as the "free thinkers," and General Petroff tells me that Guerdjikoff professes Anarchist opinions, and is not recognized by the "Organisation Intérieure" as one of its members.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 54.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Marling.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1905.

THE Bulgarian Agent made to me to-day a statement to the following effect on the subject of the military activity lately exhibited by Turkey in Macedonia:—

According to trustworthy information which had reached the Bulgarian Government from reliable sources, the Turkish Government had sent to Salonica an enormous quantity of artillery, ammunition, and horses, and orders had been issued to the administrations of the Smyrna and Beirout Railways to be ready to transport 80,000 to 100,000 soldiers, whose destination was apparently Salonica. It was generally believed throughout the Macedonian vilayets that Turkey was preparing for a war against the Principality of Bulgaria, and this belief was greatly strengthened by the following facts, which proved that the Turkish Government desired the continuance of the troubles in Macedonia, and hoped thus to find a pretext for a conflict:—

1. The churches and schools were kept closed in those villages where the inhabitants, conscious of their nationality as Bulgarians, had abandoned the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

2. The amnestied teachers and priests were prevented from exercising their calling and profession.

3. The Bulgarian labourers who had for many years past been earning their living in Constantinople were being driven away and sent to their native villages by the police.

4. The police searches for insurgents and ammunition were invariably accompanied by cruel ill-treatment of the Bulgarian peasants.

5. The Turkish authorities openly favoured and assisted the Greek bands which were organized to persecute the Bulgarians.

I told M. Tzokow that, although I was aware that reinforcements had lately been sent to Macedonia, and that a considerable amount of arms and ammunition had lately

found their way to that country, there was, so far as I knew, no reason for believing that the Turkish Government contemplated an invasion of Bulgaria. The measures which they were taking were, on the contrary, generally represented as precautions against an attack from the Bulgarian side.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 55.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 7th instant, reporting a conversation with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the proposed increase in the Turkish customs duties.

I approve your language to Tewfik Pasha on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 56.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, and of a further despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, relative to the murder of Vlachs in the village of Negovan by a Greek band.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 9, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Shipley's despatch to Mr. Townley of the 4th instant,* I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a short Memorandum which has been communicated to me by the Roumanian Consul-General at Salonica on the subject of the murder of Vlach notables of the village of Negovan by a Greek band under the command of Yanko Criticos on the 26th ultimo.

Prince Ghika also records the murder of the Vlach priest Mihail, Abbot of the Monastery of Ozan (Osin), in the Kaza of Gevgeli, who was well known as a promoter of the Vlach movement in that district, though it must be added that the crime is believed by the Turkish authorities to be a common law offence rather than a political assassination.

With the Negovan murders the conflict between the Greeks and the Roumanizing Vlachs enters upon a new and acute phase. Reprisals by the Vlachs are sure to follow, and in those districts where they are not numerous or well organized enough to stand alone, it is expected that they will now throw in their lot with the Bulgarians and make common cause with them, both politically and ecclesiastically, against the Greeks.

In this connection I have the honour to report that yesterday the Special Court of Salonica pronounced sentence on twenty-seven Vlach prisoners who have been awaiting trial since June 1904 on charges of harbouring and assisting Bulgarian revolutionaries. Seven prisoners were acquitted and twenty were condemned to terms of imprisonment varying from fifteen years downwards. There can be little doubt that, at the time when the alleged offences were committed, the Vlach villagers had no choice but to give

* Inclosure 3.

shelter and food to the Bulgarian bands, owing to the failure of the authorities to protect them if they refused; and it would really appear as if the Turkish Government were doing their best, in conjunction with the Greek clergy and Patriarchist bands, to drive the dissident Vlachs into the Bulgarian camp, both politically and ecclesiastically.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Memorandum by the Roumanian Consul-General.

LE Samedi, 12 Février (v. s.), dans la commune de Negovan, la bande Grecque, conduite par le Chef Yanko Criticos, est entrée sans combat, s'est emparée, à leurs domiciles respectifs, de quatre Notables Valaques, et les a fusillés, à la sortie du village.

Ces Notables sont: les deux prêtres Cristo et Theodosio, tous deux frères, Patriarchistes, mais qui célébraient la messe en langue Roumaine; puis, le Notable Valaque Ghiorghi Schuma, dit Thomaïde, ainsi que son fils, âgé de 25 ans. Il faut noter que ce Notable était en tête du mouvement cultural Roumain et avait pris l'initiative de la création, à Negovan, d'une école Roumaine.

[N.B.—Les agences télégraphiques, sur la foi des renseignements d'abord donnés, ont publié dans les journaux la nouvelle de ce sextuple assassinat, en la mettant au compte des Bulgares Exarchistes. Depuis, les autorités Turques ont rétabli la vérité, en fournissant ce détail d'abord laissé soigneusement dans l'ombre—et qui constitue une charge écrasante contre les Grecs—que la bande a fusillé, à côté des quatre Valaques, deux villageois Bulgares Exarchistes. Néanmoins, le "Bulletin d'Orient" passe outre et marque le coup à l'actif des Bulgares.]

Le Mercredi, 18 Février (v. s.), le prêtre Mihaïl d'Ozan, Hégoumène du monastère de cette localité (Caza de Ghevghéli), a été assassiné sur la route. Les autorités ont arrêté son domestique, qui aurait avoué le crime dont le mobile serait le vol. A noter que l'Hégoumène était depuis deux ans à la tête du mouvement Valaque et en butte aux menaces des autorités ecclésiastiques Grecques. Néanmoins, à la première nouvelle du meurtre, le Métropolitain Grec de Salonique a été réclamer vengeance auprès de l'Inspecteur-Général Hilmi Pacha. Traité en ennemi jusqu'à hier, de son vivant, le défunt prêtre Mihaïl est aujourd'hui, pour le clergé Grec, un martyr.

(Translation.)

ON Saturday, the 12th February (o.s.), the Greek band, led by the Chief Yanko Criticos, entered the commune of Negovan without resistance, carried off from their respective houses four Vlach Notables, and shot them on the road outside the village.

These Notables are the two priests, Cristo and Theodosio, brothers, Patriarchists, who, however, celebrated mass in the Roumanian language; also a Vlach Notable, Ghiorghi Schuma, called Thomaïde, as well as his son, 25 years old. It must be noted that this Notable was at the head of the Roumanian educational movement, and had taken the initiative in founding a Roumanian school at Negovan.

[N.B.—The telegraphic agencies, on the strength of the details which were first furnished, published in the papers the news of this sextuple assassination, laying the blame on the Bulgarian Exarchists. The Turkish authorities have since discovered the truth by producing the fact, which had been carefully hidden, and which constitutes an overwhelming charge against the Greeks, that the band shot two Bulgarian Exarchist inhabitants of the village besides the four Vlachs. The "Bulletin d'Orient," notwithstanding, disregards this, and places the crime to the account of the Bulgarians.]

On Wednesday, the 18th February (o.s.), the priest Mihail d'Ozan, Hégoumène of the monastery of this locality (Caza of Gevgeli), was assassinated on the road. The authorities arrested his servant, who is said to have confessed to the crime for purposes of theft. It is to be noted that the Hégoumène has been for two years at the

head of the Vlach movement, and the object of threats from the Greek ecclesiastical authorities. At the first news of the murder, nevertheless, the Greek Metropolitan of Salonica went to demand satisfaction from the Inspector-General Hilmi Pasha. Treated while alive up to the present time as an enemy, the deceased priest Mihail is now treated by the Greek clergy as a martyr.

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Acting Consul Shipley to Mr. Townley.

Sir, *Monastir, March 4, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that a further outrage, in addition to the one reported in my despatch of the 2nd January of this year,* took place on Sunday last, the 26th ultimo, at Negovan, some two and a-half hours to the south of Florina, resulting on this occasion in the death of the following six persons, viz.: Two priests, brothers named Theodosius and Christo respectively; Giorgi Thomaidis, or Shomu, merchant; a certain Nako, and two Bulgarians, named Nitzé and Tippé, all inhabitants of the village above referred to. The inquiry into the affair has not yet been completed by the Turkish authorities, but from such information as I have been able to obtain, it would appear that about nightfall on the day in question the above-mentioned individuals were severally summoned from their houses by a certain Sotiri, one of the two watchmen of the village, under pretext that the Kaïmakam of Florina had just arrived, and was desirous of putting certain questions to them. What passed afterwards is not exactly known, but from such indications as the villagers were able to afford it would appear that the unfortunate victims, having been conducted to the outskirts of the village, were there put to death by a band of men under the leadership, it is asserted, of two or three members of the Greek counter-revolutionary bands still at large in the district in question. The complete freedom from interruption enjoyed by the band during the perpetration of the above crime is shown by the fact that the latter, under pretext of ransoming one of the victims, viz., Giorgi Thomaidis, had time to extort from the latter's family a sum of some 30*l.* or 40*l.* in addition to a number of bills of exchange and other papers of considerable value. An examination of the bodies, when discovered on the following morning, showed that, with the exception of the priest Theodosius, they had all been done to death by hatchets and knives. In the case of the priest Theodosius death was found to have been due to a bullet from a rifle, and this, I have been informed by Lieutenant Gastoldi, one of the Italian officers attached to the Imperial Gendarmerie, who some few days later made a personal investigation on the spot, is thought by the villagers to have been possibly due to the fact that the priest in question, being of strong build, might have succeeded in wrenching himself free from his assailants, and had been shot down while attempting to seek safety in flight. I should mention that Sotiri, the watchman by whose means the victims were summoned from their houses, has disappeared. Some seven persons, however, chiefly inhabitants of the village, have been arrested by the authorities, among them being Sotiri's fellow-watchman, a certain Nicolaki, against whom further grounds for suspicion are afforded by the fact that a blood-stained axe was found in his possession at the time of his arrest.

All the circumstances of the crime, as above detailed, point to the conclusion that it could not have been committed without the active complicity of a certain number of the inhabitants of Negovan themselves. An attempt was at first made to fasten the responsibility on the Bulgarians, but this theory, which has since been abandoned, was at no time supported by any evidence, and is further disproved by the fact that no allusion whatever was made to it by the villagers to Lieutenant Gastoldi when conducting his inquiries as above stated. The possibility of the crime being due to a simple act of brigandage has also been put forward, but, while this suggestion might be held to be sufficient to account for the death of Thomaidis, it fails entirely to furnish an adequate explanation of the murder of the latter's companions. A review of the whole of the circumstances of the case, however, leaves little doubt that the above outrage, like so many others which have taken place during the past four or five months, is only one more instance of the lengths to which the rival Christian nationalities are now prepared to go in furtherance of their respective aims. The first four victims on the list, viz., the two priests, Thomaidis and Nako, were, I am told, credited with the intention of introducing a Vlach propaganda into Negovan, a

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 145.

village in which Greek influence has hitherto been exclusively predominant, and had, further, unfortunately for themselves, incurred the suspicion of furnishing the Turkish authorities with information as to the doings of the chiefs of the Greek bands above alluded to, thus drawing down upon themselves the vengeance of the latter. The murder of the two Bulgarians, Mitzé and Tippé, seems, as far as I can learn, to have been a mere act of partisan hatred,

I may add that the affair will no doubt receive further elucidation from the examination of Nicolaki, the watchman, and from the evidence of the son of Thomaidis, who is now in Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 57.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting on an encounter between Turkish troops and a Bulgarian band near Vodena on the 6th instant.

Mr. Graves points out that the troops engaged in this affair behaved with great moderation, owing to the stringent orders issued by Hilmi Pasha to avoid any repetition of the excesses of Kuklitch, and to the fact that the command of these troops was confided to two Turkish gendarmerie officers, who had lately passed through the Gendarmerie School of Salonica.

Mr. Graves reports in another despatch that, on the 4th instant a Greek band murdered seven Bulgarian fishermen and wounded eight others near the Lake of Yenijé, which has long been the principal stronghold of the Bulgarian Chief "Apostol," who has made himself particularly obnoxious to the Greeks.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub also reports that, on the 5th instant, an encounter took place between a detachment of Turkish troops and a Bulgarian band near Gradishta, resulting in the death of twelve Komitajis and of one of the soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on Monday, the 6th instant, a detachment of Turkish troops proceeded from Vodena to the neighbouring village of Mesimeri (Mesmer), where the presence of a small band of Bulgarian Komitajis had been denounced to the authorities. The band had taken up their position in an isolated house, and firing went on at intervals from about 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon until Tuesday morning, when the Komitajis tried to break through the cordon of troops, but were shot down, only one out of six, according to the Turkish version, succeeding in effecting his escape. In the course of the operations a barn was set on fire, but none of the village houses were burned, no non-combatants were injured, and, although perquisitions were made in fourteen houses, no looting or other excesses took place.

Information which reaches me from Bulgarian sources confirms all the above particulars except the number of Komitajis, which the Bulgarian version gives at eleven, of whom five escaped.

The most interesting feature in this encounter is to be found in the fact that stringent orders had been issued by Hilmi Pasha to avoid any repetition of the excesses of Kuklitch, and that the command of the troops employed was confided to two Turkish gendarmerie officers—a Captain and a Lieutenant—who had lately passed through the Gendarmerie School for "Chefs de Poste" at Salonica. The manner in which these

officers, who are the first of the reorganized gendarmerie to be placed in charge of such operations, have performed their difficult task is in striking contrast to the usual mode of procedure, and must prove a great satisfaction to the foreign officers responsible for their training, and augurs well for the future success of the force."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 58.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 22, 1905.*

KUKLITCH. With reference to my despatch of the 7th March.

With a view to the punishment of the persons responsible for the excesses committed, I have made earnest representations to the Grand Vizier. A full inquiry is being made by a Turkish Commission deputed for that purpose, so his Highness informs me, and also he is in communication with the Inspector-General on the subject

The Commission has, I hear, condemned in its Report the conduct of the Turkish troops, and recommends the bringing before a Tribunal of the officers concerned, and names at least one who should be degraded. This course has been pursued by Commission owing to the pressure put upon it by the Civil Agents.

I am assured that this case is being energetically followed up by the Russian Ambassador here, in whose gendarmerie division the outrage took place, and the presence of his gendarmerie officer at the trial is being insisted on by his Excellency.

No. 59.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 22, 1905.*

I TOLD the French Ambassador to-day that I was anxious to know how the French Government regarded the situation which had now arisen with regard to the proposed introduction of financial reforms in Macedonia. The two Powers had put forward a scheme of which we were aware, but as to which we had not been consulted. In our view these reforms, although a step in the right direction, did not go nearly far enough towards securing a sufficient amount of financial independence for the Macedonian vilayets. They afforded no guarantee that the Turkish Government would be prevented from diverting to their own uses the revenues of the Macedonian provinces. It was, moreover, suggested that the finances of the three vilayets should be under the control of the "Puissances intéressées," whose mandate it was apparently proposed to extend beyond the term originally fixed for its duration.

We were further confronted by the Turkish proposal for an increase of the customs duties in order to provide for the expenses consequent upon the introduction of the proposed reforms. The two Powers had agreed to this increase, making it, however, a condition that the Turkish Government should accept their financial proposals. The financial and commercial interests of France and England in Turkey were greater than those of any other countries, and we had, therefore, clearly a right to be considered in the matter: I hoped that the French Government would take a similar view. We were content that the two Governments should be allowed to give effect to the views of the other Powers, but we did not think that the mandate should be prolonged unless it was to be carried out in such a manner as to assure to the provinces a fundamental improvement of the conditions under which they are at present governed. The proposals now before us fell short of what was necessary, because they did not contain any adequate guarantees that the finances of the Macedonian provinces would be satisfactorily administered, and that any revenues which might be set apart for their benefit would really be spent for that purpose.

M. Cambon told me that he would repeat the purport of my observations to the French Government, and that in his belief the views which I had expressed would not be found to differ greatly from those entertained by M. Delcassé.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 60.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1905.

THE Italian Ambassador told me to-day that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Rome had informed a member of the Italian Foreign Office that the Russian Government had noted with satisfaction that the Italian Government was favourable in principle to an increase of 3 per cent. in the Turkish customs duties. The Chargé d'Affaires had said that the Russian Government had no doubt that the Italian Government would consider the scheme favourably, as it had been carefully prepared by persons thoroughly conversant with the subject. The expression "Puissances intéressées" in the scheme of reforms put forward by the two Powers had reference only to Russia and Austria-Hungary, but he admitted that other Powers also had an interest in the Macedonian question, and the joint scheme only had reference to the special position which had been created by the acceptance of the Mürzsteg programme.

The Italian Government had replied that this statement did not seem to them quite sufficient as a basis for an understanding between the Powers, especially as we were approaching the end of the period during which the mandate conferred upon the two Powers was to run.

I told Signor Pansa that the attitude of the Italian Government did not seem to me to differ greatly in principle from that which His Majesty's Government were likely to adopt. We should, at the proper time, offer our criticisms upon the new scheme of reforms, and, although we certainly did not desire to create needless difficulties in the way of the two Powers, we could not be expected to support their proposals, still less to agree to the suggested increase of the customs duties, unless we were satisfied that sufficient guarantees would be forthcoming for the improved administration of the three vilayets.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 61.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Plunkett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1905.

I HAD some conversation with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to-day upon the subject of Macedonian affairs. I told his Excellency that, as he was well aware, we desired to avoid any appearance of unfriendliness to the two Powers who had been intrusted with the task of introducing reforms into that country. The proposals which they had put forward, as well as those which the Turkish Government had formulated, seemed to us, however, to afford no sufficient guarantee for the redress of the abuses of which we complained. His Excellency would remember that we had from the first reserved to ourselves the right of taking a part in the discussion of these questions, and it would therefore be our duty, at the proper time, to call attention to certain points at which the scheme of the two Powers seemed to us to fall short of what was necessary. We were asked to place the finances of Macedonia under the control of the two Powers, and by implication to agree to the virtual extension of the mandate which had been given to them. We had, therefore, it seemed to me, a right to ask whether the scheme was really calculated to secure for the three vilayets the requisite amount of financial independence. I was afraid that it was not. Nor did it seem to us to be so framed as to make it certain that any revenues which might be ear-marked for the use of these provinces would without fail find their way to them. The proposal of the Turkish Government to increase the customs duties by 3 per cent. made it more than ever incumbent upon us to watch these proceedings with attention. The two Governments had acceded to this proposal on condition that their scheme of financial reforms was accepted by the Porte. Our interests might be seriously affected, and we were therefore obliged to scrutinize carefully the measures which the two Powers had recommended with the object of improving the financial administration of the country.

I told his Excellency that I should be glad to discuss these matters with him more fully at any moment which he might think convenient.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 62.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir C. Hardinge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1905.

I HAD a short conversation to-day with the Russian Ambassador upon the subject of the various proposals which have lately been put forward for the introduction of reforms in Macedonia. I told his Excellency that the scheme of the two Powers was certainly not regarded by us in a hostile spirit, but that it seemed to us not to afford sufficient guarantees for the effectual operation of the proposed reforms. We had not yet been officially consulted with regard to it, but the proposal of the Turkish Government to increase their customs duties by 3 per cent., and the announcement of the two Powers that they would agree to this increase upon condition that the Turkish Government accepted their scheme, clearly gave us a *locus standi* in the matter, and it would be necessary for us to make our views known. We should not be justified in placing the finances of the three vilayets under the exclusive control of the two Powers, or in assenting to an arrangement which implied a prolongation of the mandate which had been given to them, unless we were fully satisfied as to the adequacy of their proposals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 63.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Sophia, March* 20, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that two persons, at first said to be Komitajis, were killed on the 17th instant by the accidental explosion of a dynamite bomb near Knyazhevo, a village some 2½ miles south of Sophia on the Kustendil road.

The Government is very reticent over the affair, and no mention of it has yet appeared in the press, but the main facts appear to be as follows:—

On Thursday, the 16th instant, four persons arrived in Sophia from Europe, and proceeded to the Hôtel de Bulgarie, where they attracted no particular attention. The party consisted of an Armenian, believed to belong to the Toshak Organization, a European engineer, said to be a Belgian, and two women, all of whom on the following afternoon proceeded to Knyazhevo for the purpose of explaining to some Komitajis the method of using a new kind of bomb. Two experiments were successfully carried out, but in the third the bomb exploded prematurely, and killed the two demonstrators on the spot. The rest of the party, including the two women and the Komitajis present, returned hastily to Sophia, one of the latter, said to be Boris Sarafoff, making on his arrival the round of the newspaper offices to request that no mention of the occurrence should be published.

The affair is causing the Government great annoyance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. MARLING.

No. 64.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 19, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir reporting further outrages by Greek bands in the Castoria Kaza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March* 10, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Greek bands now concentrated in the Florina and Castoria districts have, in addition to the crime at Negovan, reported in my immediately preceding despatch of the 4th instant, rendered themselves responsible for the following further outrages, viz. :—

1. The murder on the 2nd instant, on the road leading from Bobishté to Castoria, of the following five adherents of the Exarchate, viz.: Vassil Gheleff and Vané Christoff, of Bobishté; Ghiorghi Stereff and Colé Kaneff, of Zagoritchani; and Ghiorghi Nicoloff Bitzoff, the village watchman of Mokreni. The Exarchist priest of the latter village, named Athanas, was also among those attacked, but succeeded in making his escape after, it is said, having identified certain of his assailants.

2. A raid three days later on the village of Osnitcheni in the Nahiré of Chrupishté (Castoria Kaza), which resulted in the death of three persons, among them being the priest of the village named Thomas, while three others, including a woman, were wounded.

In connection with these excesses on the part of the bands above referred to, I may mention that the information which I have received from various sources all points to the fact that extensive preparations are being made by the Greek party for more effectively combating the Bulgarian propaganda in the Castoria and Florina Kazas, the bands in question being now joined by volunteers from the town of Monastir itself, who, it is stated, gain their destination viâ Athens. As these preparations of the Greeks can hardly fail to be met by a corresponding increase of activity on the part of the Bulgarians, the outlook for the coming spring is, it must be said, not reassuring.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 65.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 21, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting the practical extermination of a Bulgarian band under the leadership of the well-known Chief, Apostol, at the village of Smol, in the district of Gevgeli.

Your Lordship will observe that no damage was inflicted upon the village or inhabitants of Smol by the Turkish troops, whose satisfactory conduct is in striking contrast with their outrageous misbehaviour at Kuklitch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, March* 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report the following particulars of an encounter at Smol, in which the band commanded by Apostol was practically wiped out, although it appears that that leader succeeded in effecting his escape :—

On the early morning of the 14th March, Apostol, with his Lieutenant, Sava Mihailoff, and thirty-eight other Komitajis, entered the village of Smol, which is situated on the left bank of the Vardar, about 1,000 feet above the river, and 5 miles south-south-east of Gevgeli. The barking of the village dogs attracted the attention of some Albanian shepherds, who at once sent messengers to summon the troops from Gevgeli and Spanchevo, who made a converging movement upon Smol, accompanied by a large number of armed Turkish villagers. The troops appear to have consisted of 300 infantry of the line, a company of the newly-formed chasseurs (Avji Tabouro), a detachment of cavalry, and a few gendarmes.

Seeing themselves surrounded, Apostol and his men left the village and took up a defensive position in two groups on some rocky ground, from which they opened fire on the soldiers. The engagement went on until near nightfall, when, most of the Komitajis having been disabled, and proposals of some of the survivors to surrender having been rejected, the troops rushed the position and despatched all whom they found still living. About ten Bulgarians tried to break away to the Vardar, five of whom were shot down in the attempt, and only Apostol and four companions are believed to have effected their escape.

Major Froloff, the Russian gendarmerie officer stationed at Gevgeli, accompanied the troops and witnessed the engagement. He examined the bodies of the dead, which had been stripped and bore numerous knife or bayonet wounds. The corpses were almost all those of very young men, of from 17 to 20 years of age—apparently a draft of new recruits to Apostol's band. Among them was found the body of Apostol's Lieutenant, Sava Mihailoff; but, although a Turk personally acquainted with Apostol was brought to identify that leader among the dead, he was unable to do so, though his horse, a rifle inscribed with his name, and photographs of him on which were written verses of patriotic Bulgarian poetry, were among the spoils.

According to the latest official version, three soldiers were killed, and nine wounded, and I am informed that several "bashi-bozouks" were also killed and wounded.

A satisfactory feature of this encounter is the fact that discipline was enforced among the troops, and that no damage was inflicted upon the village or inhabitants of Smol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 66.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 21, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, reporting on an encounter which took place at Olévéni, near Monastir, on the 9th instant between Turkish troops and eight Bulgarian revolutionaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March 14, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on Thursday last, the 9th instant, a band of Bulgarian revolutionaries, eight in number, were surrounded by a detachment consisting of 200 infantry and forty cavalry at the village of Olévéni, situated at about an hour and a-quarter's distance from Monastir on the road leading to Florina. From the account of the affair furnished by the villagers to my Austrian colleague, M. Prochaska, and to Colonel Albera, Military Adjoint to General Degiorgis Pasha, who, with two of his subordinates, visited the scene of the encounter shortly afterwards, it would appear that the revolutionaries, on hearing of the approach of the detachment, endeavoured to gain the neighbouring mountains, but were stopped by the cavalry, who succeeded in entrapping four of their number in a ravine, the remaining four making their way back to the village. Of those who were left in the ravine, three were killed on the spot, while the fourth has since succumbed to his wounds. The village was then completely surrounded by the troops, and as it was by this time nightfall, the latter, in order to facilitate their operations, proceeded to set fire to a large stable containing a quantity of cattle opposite to the house in which the four remaining revolutionaries had taken refuge. The cattle (the charred remains of which were subsequently seen by M. Prochaska and Colonel Albera) were burned to death inside the stable, and it was asserted by the villagers that an attempt on their part to save them was forcibly prevented by the soldiers. The latter would then appear to have

compulsorily requisitioned the aid of the villagers to set fire to the house in which, as above stated, the revolutionaries had taken refuge, though it should be stated that this proceeding was apparently not resorted to until a summons to surrender, conveyed through one of the villagers, had been disregarded by the latter. Under these conditions the resistance offered by the revolutionaries was, I am told, not of long duration and ended eventually in the death of all four, two perishing in the flames and two being killed in attempting to effect a sortie. The villager who took the summons to surrender was also killed, but whether by a chance shot from the revolutionaries or from the soldiers does not appear to be exactly known. As in the case of the encounter at Kriveni, reported in my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, a good deal of looting, accompanied by much wanton and unnecessary destruction of property, was indulged in by the troops. I learn further from Colonel Albera that several of the women and girls of the village were subjected to the grossest ill-usage on the part of certain of the soldiers, and were in fact only saved from worse outrage by their own desperate resistance and by the timely arrival of their male relatives, who hurried up on hearing their cries for assistance.

I may add that the licence allowed to the troops on the above occasion is the less excusable as Olévéni, which is inhabited mainly by Patriarchists, has, up to the present, certainly not been distinguished for any pronounced sympathy with the Bulgarian propaganda, and, I am informed, was not one of the villages which gave trouble to the Turkish Government during the events of the year 1903.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No 67

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 21, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, in which I had the honour to report on certain statements in the press with regard to the conduct of the Turkish troops towards the villagers of Macedonia, I spoke to the Grand Vizier yesterday in the sense of the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, and urged upon his Highness that the employment of the gendarmerie who have been trained by the European officers, when perquisitions or other operations likely to lead to unpleasant incidents were to be undertaken, would be of great advantage to the Imperial Government.

The supervision of the foreign officers on occasions of that nature would, apart from any restraining influence their presence might exercise, enable the Porte to furnish testimony which would obviate any misapprehension in Europe of the manner in which the gendarmerie or the soldiers—if their employment were inevitable—carried out the orders of the authorities.

I cited the lamentable occurrence at Kuklitch as a proof that there were officers in the Ottoman army on whom reliance could not be placed, and that the measure I suggested was very necessary.

His Highness finally undertook to transmit to Hilmi Pasha instructions in the sense of my representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 68.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 21, 1905.*

A NOTICE appeared a short time ago in the local press stating that a Commission had been appointed to report on the reorganization of the gendarmerie in the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I have twice inquired of the Grand Vizier how the matter stands, reminding his Highness of the serious representations which I had made to His Imperial Majesty so far back as December 1902, and of His Majesty's assurances, repeated to me on

subsequent occasions, that the matter would be carefully examined and the reorganization taken in hand.

His Highness replied that these representations had borne fruit, and that a Commission which included an Italian officer, an Aide-de-camp to His Majesty, Colonel Thomassi, was now actually engaged in drawing up a report which he expected would be shortly finished. As soon as the report was received steps would be taken in the sense of my representations.

His Highness then added that he could tell me that it was also intended to send a foreign gendarmerie officer to the Vilayet of Erzeroum to reorganize the gendarmerie in that district. I said that this was another matter, but that the question of immediate importance was the extension of the system introduced in the three vilayets of Roumelia to the Vilayet of Adrianople. We had, as he was aware, only six gendarmerie officers in the Drama district, while we were entitled to apply for twelve in the same way as the other Powers. These six officers were now fully conversant with their duties, and two or three of them could easily be deputed to reorganize the gendarmerie in the Adrianople Vilayet on the same uniform system, and their places would be supplied by other officers from England.

I pressed the matter on his Highness very earnestly on the ground that public opinion absolutely required some tangible sign of the Ottoman Government's goodwill and spontaneous action in regard to the introduction of reforms, and I expressed my hope that he would give due weight to my representations. His Highness replied I might rely on his reporting them to the proper quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 69.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1905.*

THE French Ambassador spoke to me to-day upon the subject of the Macedonian negotiations. He told me that he had been informed that the Russian Government was not opposed to the idea of giving the other Powers a voice in regard to their financial proposals. I said that I had received information somewhat to the same effect from our Ambassador at Constantinople. I repeated to his Excellency the substance of my recent conversations with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, and said that we intended to make it clear that, both on account of our large share in the foreign trade of Turkey, which would be affected by the proposed increase of the customs duties, and because we could not admit that a large development of the Mürzsteg programme could properly take place without the concurrence of the other Powers, we should expect to be consulted with regard to the proposed measures of financial reform.

The proposals which had been put forward by the two Powers and the Turkish counter-scheme did not seem to us to contain adequate guarantees for the improved administration of the three vilayets. Nor could we, in view of the fact that the mandate given to the two Powers would expire next autumn, admit that the whole of these new financial arrangements should be intrusted to the Imperial Ottoman Bank under the control of two only of the Great Powers. We also desired that the reforms, including the gendarmerie scheme, should be extended to the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 70.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Count Mensdorff.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, March 28, 1905.*

YOUR Excellency was good enough to communicate to me on the 27th February a Note stating that, in the view of the Austrian and Russian Governments, the assent of the Powers might be given to the proposal of the Porte for an increase of the customs duties on the three following conditions:—

(1.) The acceptance by the Porte of the Austro-Russian financial scheme;

(2.) An engagement by the Porte to devote a sufficient portion of the surplus of the customs revenue to the local administration in Macedonia, and to provide an indemnity to the Christians for the losses they had suffered;

(3.) An engagement of the Porte to introduce reforms in the Customs administration.

Your Excellency also told me that the two Governments entertained a hope that His Majesty's Government would assist them in bringing about a satisfactory solution of the question of Macedonian financial reform.

I at once informed your Excellency that His Majesty's Government had already received from the Turkish Government a request for our adhesion to their proposal to increase the customs duties, and that we had in our reply, of which I handed you a copy, intimated that we could not entertain the proposal unless satisfactory explanation were forthcoming upon certain points. We insisted, in particular, upon the necessity of further information as to the basis upon which the calculations of the Porte had been made, and of showing, to the satisfaction of the Powers, that the Budget had been prepared with due regard to the real needs of the administration, that care would be taken to prevent unnecessary expenditure, and that the proper collection and application of the local revenue would be insured. We also called attention to the need of further inquiry into the large military expenditure now incurred by the Porte in Macedonia, and into the manner in which the customs revenue was collected, and to the need of reforms in the administration of the Turkish custom-houses.

Finally, we considered it indispensable that there should be a definite assignment of the increased duties to some competent authority, who should be intrusted with the collection and control not only of these funds, but of the local revenues which they were intended to supplement.

To these observations His Majesty's Government have, up to the present time, received no answer from the Porte. The Turkish Government have, however, in reply to the proposal for reforms put forward by the two Powers, made a counter-proposal of their own, the purport of which has become known to His Majesty's Government.

In the meantime, the Austrian and Russian Embassies presented to the Porte on the 2nd instant a note embodying the substance of the communication made to me by your Excellency on the 27th February as to the conditions upon which an increase of the customs duties might be accepted.

It may, in these circumstances, be desirable that I should explain to your Excellency the manner in which His Majesty's Government regard the situation which has arisen in consequence of these various proposals.

I had some conversation upon this subject with your Excellency on the 25th January, when you were good enough to ask me whether I did not think that the new Austro-Russian proposals were a step in the right direction. I replied that I thought they were, but that they did not seem to me to go nearly far enough towards securing a sufficient amount of financial independence for the Macedonian vilayets, and I dwelt particularly upon the absence of any security to prevent the Turkish Government from diverting the revenues of the Macedonian provinces to their own uses. Your Excellency was so kind as to observe that you felt convinced that the Austrian Government would gladly consider any suggestions which we might desire to make.

I again referred to the subject on the 8th February, when I told your Excellency that although His Majesty's Government were in no way hostile to the scheme which the two Powers had proposed to the Porte, it seemed to us to be one which required very careful scrutiny, and we therefore desired to withhold our judgment for the present. I then called your Excellency's attention particularly to the proposal made in the scheme, that the Budgets of the three vilayets should be subject to the approval of the "Puissances intéressées," whose consent was to be necessary for the creation of any fresh source of revenue or any fresh item of expenditure; and I expressed a desire to know whether these words referred to the two Powers only or to other Powers as well. Your Excellency was not at the moment able to answer my question.

Upon the 22nd instant we had some further conversation upon the same subject, and I ventured to repeat what I had already said with regard to it.

As your Excellency will probably wish to make the Austro-Hungarian Government aware of our views, it may be convenient to you that I should confirm in writing the observations which I have addressed to you, and that I should make it clear that, irrespectively of the stipulations which it will be necessary for us to make, as the Power most largely interested in the external trade of Turkey, with regard to the proposed increase of the customs duties, it will be our duty to offer, for

the consideration of all the Powers concerned, our observations upon the financial scheme which the two Powers have asked the Porte to accept. We have never failed to insist that financial reforms in the European provinces of Turkey are urgently needed, and we rejoice that the two Powers, by whom this was recognized from the first, should now have addressed themselves seriously to the task. Their proposals, however, seem to us to contain no adequate guarantees for the improved administration of the three vilayets. Moreover, unless the expression "Puissances intéressées" has been misunderstood by us, the scheme presupposes an indefinite continuance of the mandate given to the two Powers, which, under the arrangements now subsisting, would expire in the autumn of the present year, and hands over to those Powers, whose financial and commercial interests in Turkey are relatively insignificant in comparison with those of France and England, the entire control of the finances of Macedonia.

To the suggestion that the scheme might, with advantage, be modified in such a manner as to meet these friendly criticisms, I add the further suggestion that its operation, as well as that of the existing gendarmerie scheme, and of any other reforms, should, in our opinion, be extended to the Vilayet of Adrianople, the administration of which needs improvement not less than that of the other Provinces.

His Majesty's Government offer these observations in no spirit of hostility. They have, on the contrary, made it clear from the first that they desired to co-operate loyally with the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments, and it is only because the most recent proposals of the two Powers are not, in the view of His Majesty's Government, calculated to assure to the Provinces affected a fundamental improvement of the conditions under which they are at present governed, and to safeguard fully the interests of all who are concerned in the sound administration of their financial resources, that I feel it my duty to address these observations to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 71.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 21st instant reporting a conversation with the Grand Vizier relative to the extension of the scheme for the reorganization of the gendarmerie adopted in the vilayets of Roumelia to the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I approve your language to Ferid Pasha on the subject. You should continue to press for this reform, to which His Majesty's Government attach much importance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 72.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1905.

I COMMUNICATED to the French Minister to-day a copy of the letter which I addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador yesterday upon the subject of the Macedonian situation, as to which I had spoken to the French Ambassador on the 27th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 73.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Plunkett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1905.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and told me that he had received the letter which I had addressed to him yesterday on the subject of Macedonian reforms. His Excellency added that he had read with interest the speech which I delivered last night in the House of Lords. There were two points in it which had particularly attracted his attention. One of these was my reference to the vilayet of Adrianople; the other, my suggestion, that the mandate of the two Powers expired this year. It was true that I had mentioned the question of Adrianople in conversation with him, but he was not prepared to see it officially put forward. I said that I was prepared for opposition at Constantinople, but that I trusted that the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments would not oppose the idea. As for the mandate, it was laid down in the Mürzsteg scheme that the Civil Agents were to be appointed for a period of two years. His Excellency suggested that this did not mean that the scheme was not to have a longer duration. I pointed out that the scheme depended entirely upon the Civil Agents, and I said that, so far as I was aware, no doubt was entertained by the other Powers that it was experimental, and would come to an end next autumn unless special arrangements were made for its renewal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 74.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir C. Hardinge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1905.

I COMMUNICATED to the Russian Ambassador to-day the letter which I addressed yesterday to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador as to the state of Macedonia. His Excellency told me that he had read the speech which I had delivered last night in the House of Lords upon this subject. He seemed surprised at my having referred to the fact that the mandate given to the two Powers would expire in the autumn of the present year. I told him that this had been distinctly laid down in the Mürzsteg scheme. His Excellency asked me why it was that the question of the duration of the mandate had suddenly assumed so much importance in my eyes. I said that this was so because in the scheme of financial reforms which the two Powers had recently put forward, and which was presumably to last for more than a few months, it was stated that the control of the finances of Macedonia should remain with the "Puissances intéressées." Count Benckendorff asked whether I understood this expression to refer to Austria-Hungary and Russia, and I said that the words had been so interpreted by myself and, I believed, by everyone else. His Excellency asked whether, if they were regarded as referring to all the Powers and not to the two Powers only, our objections would disappear. I replied that such an interpretation would obviously tend to remove some of the difficulties which we experienced in accepting the scheme.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 75.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 27, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting an encounter between Turkish troops and a Bulgarian band at Zervi, in the Vilayet of Monastir, which appears to have resulted in the escape of the band and the destruction of the village by fire, with loss of life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, March 26, 1905.*

I HAVE to report that an encounter took place at Zervi, near Ostrovo, yesterday between a Bulgarian band and the Turkish troops.

The band is said to have consisted of 60 men, and, with the exception of 3 men killed, escaped, but the village, consisting of 35 houses, was wholly burnt.

Seven of the inhabitants perished, according to the official version.

No. 76.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 31, 1905.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 21st instant, reporting a conversation with the Grand Vizier on the subject of Macedonia, in which you urged upon his Highness the desirability of employing the gendarmerie who have been trained by European officers when perquisitions or other operations likely to lead to unpleasant incidents were to be undertaken.

I approve your Excellency's language to Ferid Pasha on this occasion, and I have learnt with satisfaction that his Highness has promised to send instructions to Hilmi Pasha in the sense of your representations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 77.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Colonel Fairholme, reporting the occurrence of a strike at Cavalla, accompanied by demonstrations.

An excellent effect was produced on the demonstrators by the tact and resource of the British Gendarmerie officers, who were well supported by the Turkish officers and civil authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Colonel Fairholme to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Drama, March* 22, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a report by Major Martyn on a riot which took place at Cavalla on the 20th instant, arising from a general strike of the tobacco workpeople.

It is evident from this report that the incident might well have assumed more serious dimensions but for the tact and firmness displayed by the two British officers on the spot, Major Martyn and Captain Gilbert Hamilton.

The behaviour of the Turkish gendarmerie appears to have been admirable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME, *Colonel,*
British Staff Officer, Macedonia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Major Martyn to Major Anley.

Sir, *Cavalla, March* 20, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report:—

At about 7 A.M. this morning all the workmen in the tobacco factories—*i.e.*, Commercial Company of Salonica, Herzog and Co., and Meyer and Co.—went on strike to the number of between 5,000 and 6,000 men. They proceeded to smash all the windows and doors of the tobacco magazines (also the windows in the house of M. Wix, Austrian Vice-Consul), and to do as much damage to the tobacco manufactories as possible.

The majority of the crowd went to the Konak, making a demonstration. The Kaïmakam explained to them that he would see a deputation of different nationalities from each firm, and would endeavour to make a satisfactory arrangement after going into their grievances. About 100 soldiers and the available gendarmes were protecting the Konak. After some time the crowd left the Konak and went to the magazine of the Commercial Company, where the cavass had fired his revolver and slightly wounded a boy. This incensed the crowd, and several thousands crowded round the Commercial Company's magazine, breaking windows, &c., and were intent on getting hold of the cavass, who was confined in an office of the magazine as a prisoner. At this period I am of opinion that had the crowd got hold of the cavass he would have been lynched.

The Kaïmakam and the priests, Metropolitan and Hakim, arrived at the magazine and addressed the crowd, telling them to disperse and their grievances would be attended to; but without avail. I informed the Kaïmakam that Yuz Bashi Hamilton and I, if it was left to us, would ascertain their wants, and would disperse the crowd. We then went amongst the crowd and informed them that we would see that the cavass was apprehended and their grievances gone into. After about half-an-hour this had the effect of breaking up the crowd, and about 1,000 went away.

We then had the crowd fairly in hand, and the Kaïmakam determined to march the cavass under escort to the Konak, so that the crowd should see that it was done.

Whilst he was being escorted out of the magazine, Yuz Bashi Hamilton and I, with Sukri Bey (Mulazim) and three or four gendarmes, kept the crowd at bay, and he was successfully removed to the Konak. The crowd then dispersed (about midday).

Great damage has been done to all the doors and windows of all the magazines, hardly a pane of glass remaining intact, and I doubt whether work will be resumed again for some days.

I ordered the Yuz Bashi, Yousouf Effendi, to wire to the Bimbashi, commanding the Drama Battalion for Suaries, in order to assist in patrolling the town for the next few days. The reason of the strike was for an increase of wages, the pay of employés having been reduced by about 4 piastres a-day during this year in all the grades, and in all the tobacco factories; until work is recommenced I think it possible that there may be further trouble.

I would like to add that I was much struck by the confidence the crowd had in the British officers, who were able to go and come anywhere through the mob, and were received as friends, and appeared the only people the mob had confidence in. I should like especially to mention the work done by Yuz Bashi Hamilton, whose influence over the crowd was very marked, and in a great degree assisted in the dispersal of the crowd. The gendarmes also did good service, and did their work with marked tact and discretion; were firm, and yet not excited or angry. Mulazim Chucri Bey also did excellent work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MARTYN, *Kaïmakam,*
Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie.

No. 78.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 29, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th instant, reporting the burning of the village of Zervi after the escape of a Bulgarian band, I have the honour to report that I have spoken earnestly to the Grand Vizier on this subject, pointing out that one incident followed another, and was invariably marked by the same want of control over the troops, leading to the escape of the insurgents, and to the wanton and wholly unnecessary loss of innocent lives and destruction of private property.

I said that the upshot of such policy would be fatal to Turkey, and that Europe would be compelled to believe that the Imperial Government was unable to suppress insurrection in a civilized manner, while the feelings of those who sympathize with the revolutionaries would be raised to boiling point. It was beyond my power to comprehend why his Highness did not give the Inspector-General clearly to understand that an end must be put to action which revolted European opinion, and dealt a deadly blow to the interests of Turkey. It was, I said, a poor satisfaction for his Highness to assure me, as he had just done, that an inquiry would be held, and the officers punished for their shortcomings. Such assurances had been given time out of mind, and yet, while the lamentable incidents of the Kuklitch affair were still fresh in the public memory, the same causes of complaint recurred.

His Highness promised that he would do all that lay in his power in the sense of my representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 79.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1905.*

FINANCIAL reforms in Macedonia.

Should your Lordship consider it advisable, I think the moment is favourable for proposing the adjunction to the Civil Agents of four European Delegates to supervise execution, &c., of financial reforms; they should be recommended by their respective Governments.

No. 80.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 5, 1905.*

THE French Minister informed me to-day that the Russian Government had accepted the proposal that the Powers should appoint financial experts to co-operate with the Civil Agents in dealing with financial affairs in Macedonia, but without touching upon political questions. According to M. Constans' information the Austro-Hungarian Government had accepted the idea, and the Italian Government were believed to be equally ready to adopt it.

I told M. Geoffray that I was not unprepared for the decision of the Russian Government, but that I was extremely glad to find that it was likely to receive the adhesion of the Austro-Hungarian Government. The appointment of Civil Agents representing the other Powers would certainly be a step, and an important one, in the right direction. I should, however, like to know what was meant by the proposal to limit their functions to financial as distinguished from political affairs. It seemed to me almost impossible to draw a line between the two.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 81.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 5, 1905.

THE Turkish Ambassador made to me to-day a statement to the following effect with regard to the treatment of Mussulmans in Bulgaria :—

The Bulgarians had for some time past been increasingly aggressive against the Mussulmans, and had been endeavouring in every way to compel the latter to establish themselves in other parts of the Empire after selling their property in their birthplace for what it would fetch. They had even committed acts of sacrilege in the mosques, and behaved in a violent manner to the Mussulman spiritual authorities who complained of their action.

All these incidents had occurred with the full knowledge of the Bulgarian authorities, and the repeated representations of the Imperial Government in regard to them had unhappily led to no result.

This state of affairs being calculated to impair the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Treaty of Berlin to the Mussulmans established in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, his Excellency was instructed to direct my attention to the question, and to express the hope that His Majesty's Government would instruct their Representative at Sophia to give suitable warning and advice on the subject.

His Excellency subsequently supplied me with the particulars of cases in which Mussulmans had been ill-treated, contained in the accompanying extracts from reports addressed to the Grand Vizier by the Ottoman Commissioner at Sophia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Extract from four Reports addressed by the Turkish Commissioner at Sophia to His Highness the Grand Vézir.

Le 13 *Janvier*, 1905 (v.s.).

JE n'ai reçu aucune réponse à mes démarches faites auprès du Gouvernement Princier et du Gouverneur de Philippopoli au sujet des actes d'agression commis à Carlova. Notre Secrétaire à Philippopoli m'a informé qu'on y avait mis un terme; mais, d'après de récents renseignements, les soldats du 28e Régiment d'Infanterie à Carlova se sont livrés à de nouveaux actes d'agression contre les Musulmans; ils ont jeté de la viande de porc dans des mosquées; y ont apposé aux murs et aux portes des croix faites de peaux de porc; ils lancent des blasphèmes contre les Musulmans dans les cafés et les insultent dans les bazars.

J'ai renouvelé mes démarches auprès du Gouvernement Princier.

(Translation.)

January 13, 1905 (o.s.).

I HAVE received no reply to my representations to the Bulgarian Government and to the Governor of Philippopolis on the subject of the outrages committed at Carlova. Our Secretary at Philippopolis informed me that the outrages had ceased; but according to recent intelligence, the soldiers of the 28th Infantry Regiment at

Carlova indulged in fresh acts of aggression on the Mussulman population; they threw pieces of pork into the Mosques; nailed up on the walls and on the doors crosses made of pig's skin; they hurl insults at Mussulmans in the coffee-houses and in the bazaars.

I have renewed my representations to the Bulgarian Government.

Le 22 Janvier, 1905 (v.s.).

Malgré mes démarches, le Gouvernement Bulgare n'a pris aucune mesure pour empêcher les actes d'agression commis à Carlova. Il résulte des informations transmises par le Secrétaire à Philippopoli que les soldats du 28e Régiment d'Infanterie Bulgare continuent à insulter les Musulmans et à pénétrer dans l'intérieur des maisons habitées par les Musulmans, pour s'approcher des femmes. Les principaux membres de la communauté Musulmane ont décidé d'émigrer plutôt que de renouveler auprès des autorités compétentes des démarches qui restent sans résultat. Des actes du même genre ont été commis à Frastra. Dernièrement les Bulgares du village d'Oba, étant venus, à l'occasion d'une noce, au village de Téké, ont commencé à tirer sur un arbre qui servait de Minaret pendant que les Musulmans faisaient leur prière du Vendredi. Les plaintes faites à ce sujet par les Musulmans n'ont été suivies d'aucun effet. Le nommé Mazakoff, Député de Carlova, qui commet des actes arbitraires dans cette localité, a fait fermer le Tribunal du Chéri et les affaires dont ce Tribunal était saisi sont restées en suspens. De plus, le juge de ce Tribunal a été destitué pour avoir signalé ces actes du Député Mazakoff au Commissariat Impérial à Sofia et à son Secrétaire à Philoppopoli. Toutes les démarches faites auprès du Gouvernement Princier n'ont servi à rien.

(Translation.)

January 22, 1905 (o.s.).

In spite of my representations the Bulgarian Government have taken no steps to prevent the outrages committed at Carlova. From information sent by the Secretary at Philippopolis, it appears that the soldiers of the 28th Bulgarian Infantry Regiment continue to insult Mussulmans and force their way into Mussulman houses in order to get at the women. The chief members of the Mussulman community have decided to emigrate rather than to renew their representations to the authorities, which have hitherto been disregarded. Similar outrages have been committed at Frastra. Recently the Bulgarians of the village of Oba came for a wedding to the village of Teke, and commenced to fire at a tree which did duty for a minaret while the Mussulmans were at their Friday prayers. The complaints made by the Mussulmans on this occasion were fruitless. The Deputy for Carlova named Mazakoff, who indulges in arbitrary acts in this neighbourhood, had the Court at Cheri closed and the business of the Court has been suspended. The Judge of this Court, moreover, has been deprived of his office for having reported the proceedings of Deputy Mazakoff to the Imperial Commissioner at Sophia, and to his Secretary at Philippopolis. All representations to the Bulgarian Government have been unsuccessful.

Le 23 Janvier, 1905 (v.s.).

Il résulte des informations contenues dans une lettre de source privée, datée de Ghustendil, que le perturbateur Sacolil Marcoff, du Comité révolutionnaire Bulgare, s'acharne après les Musulmans. Il a, avec ses acolytes, assassiné quatre ou cinq Musulmans devant la porte de leurs maisons. Moustafa Effendi, âgé de 28 ans et marié depuis deux mois, a été tué le 14 courant par un individu inconnu, à Chaban Hamam, près de la ville. Aucune mesure n'a été prise par le Gouvernement Bulgare pour découvrir les assassins. Des démarches dans ce but ont été faites par écrit et verbalement auprès du Gouvernement Bulgare, mais sans résultat. Les Bulgares ont accentué depuis quelque temps leurs actes d'agression contre les Musulmans et cherchent par tous les moyens à les obliger à quitter leurs foyers pour aller s'établir dans d'autres parties de l'Empire, en vendant, à vil prix, les biens qu'ils possèdent en Bulgarie. Comme les Musulmans habitant près de la frontière ne prennent pas part aux actes de brigandages des Comités, les brigands les attaquent pour les contraindre à émigrer et pour installer à leur place leurs propres acolytes.

(Translation.)

January 23, 1905 (o.s.).

From information derived from a letter from a private source, dated from Ghustendil, it appears that the agitator, Sacolil Marcoff, who is a member of the Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee, is very violent against all Mussulmans. In company with his followers he has assassinated four or five Mussulmans before the doors of their houses. Moustafa Effendi, 28 years of age, and married two months ago, was killed on the 14th instant at Chaban Hamam, close to the town, by a person unknown. No steps have been taken by the Bulgarian Government to discover the murderers. Verbal and written representations have been made with this object to the Bulgarian Government, but without result. For some time past the Bulgarians have increased their outrages against Mussulmans, and are seeking every means to compel them to leave their homes to go and settle in other parts of the Ottoman Empire, selling their property in Bulgaria at a low price. Because the Mussulmans who live close to the frontier will not participate in the acts of brigandage of the Committees, the brigands attack them in order to force them to emigrate, and set up in their places their own followers.

Le 23 *Janvier*, 1905 (v.s.).

D'après les informations qui me sont parvenues, les Bulgares du village de Echighuidui, district d'Eski Djouma (en Bulgarie), adressent des injures aux habitants Musulmans de ce village et les insultent. Ils ont suspendu de la viande de porc à la porte de la mosquée du dit village. J'ai fait des démarches à ce sujet auprès du Gouvernement Princier, mais toujours sans résultat.

(Translation.)

January 23, 1905 (o.s.).

From information received it seems that the Bulgarians of the village of Echighuidui, district of Eski Djouma, in Bulgaria, insult the Moslem inhabitants of the village. Pieces of pork were fixed to the door of the mosque of the village. I have made representations to the Bulgarian Government on the subject, but as usual without result.

No. 82.

Mr. Marling to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 6.)

(Extract.) *Sophia, March* 25, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that very stringent orders have been given by the Ministers of War and of the Interior to the Bulgarian frontier authorities to exercise the severest surveillance to prevent all persons not provided with proper papers, whether armed or not, from crossing into Turkey, and any officer who does not strictly fulfil these orders is to be brought to court-martial.

At the usual diplomatic reception which he held to-day, M. Petkoff expatiated to all the foreign Representatives on the desire of his Government to maintain an absolutely correct attitude, and pointed out that to pursue any other course would be against the interests of Bulgaria herself. He spoke very freely to me about his relations with the leading revolutionists, and said that he had warned them that the Government would not hesitate to arrest any of them on the smallest evidence that they were about to cross the frontier with aggressive designs, but whether he will be able to carry out the threat of arresting prominent Komitajis on mere suspicion is doubtful. I am told, at all events, that the Chief of Police warned him that it could not be legally done, and of course illegal imprisonment would have the undesirable effect of making martyrs of the victims.

No. 83.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Sophia, April 1, 1905.*

WITH reference to Mr. Marling's despatch of the 25th of last month, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of the instructions sent to the frontier authorities on the 20th February, 1904, and on the 23rd March, 1905, by the Ministries of War and of the Interior, for the prevention of the formation and passage of bands across the frontier.

I may add that M. Petkoff informed me this morning that some twenty persons had recently been arrested at various points on the frontier, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Doubnitsa.

On the other hand, I hear that one of General Tsoncheff's principal lieutenants, Captain Protogueroff by name, who, after taking part in the insurrection of 1903, was last year reinstated in the Bulgarian army, succeeded in passing the frontier a few days ago. His name has, in consequence, been struck off the army list.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 83.

NOTICE.

Arrêté pris en Conseil des Ministres (Février 1904).

DANS les arrondissements de Kustendil, Doubnitza, Samokow, Peschtera, Plovdiv, Haskovo, Kyzilagatch, Karnobad, et Bourgas, la sauvegarde de l'ordre et de la sécurité dans la zone-frontière est confiée aux autorités militaires. En conséquence, les organes administratifs et de police seront sous les ordres des autorités militaires en ce qui concerne les mesures d'ordre et de sécurité à la frontière.

Ladite zone-frontière comprendra 40 kilom. de la ligne de démarcation à l'intérieur du pays.

(Translation.)

Decision of the Council of Ministers (February 1904).

IN the administrative districts of Kustendil, Doubnitza, Samokow, Peschtera, Plovdiv, Haskovo, Kyzilagatch, Karnobad, and Bourgas the task of preserving law and order in the frontier zone is confided to the military authorities. The administration and the police will therefore be under the orders of the military authorities as far as the preservation of law and order on the frontier is concerned.

The above-mentioned frontier zone will extend 40 kilom. from the line of demarcation to the interior of the country.

Extrait de la Circulaire adressée le 13 (20) Février, 1904, par le Ministre de l'Intérieur aux Préfets de Kustendil, Plovdiv, Bourgas, Stara-Zagora, et Sofia. (Copie envoyée aux Préfets des autres districts.)

En conformité de l'Arrêté du Conseil des Ministres, je vous invite à prendre immédiatement les mesures suivantes, en veillant à leur stricte et rigoureuse application, pour laquelle je vous tiendrai personnellement responsable :—

1. Prévenir les Sous-Préfets qu'ils sont placés sous les ordres directs des commandants de la garde-frontière de leur rayon pour sauvegarder l'ordre et la sécurité de la frontière, interdire l'approche ou le passage d'individus suspects, empêcher la formation de bandes quelconques, armées ou non, et leur passage en Turquie.

Ne pourront traverser la ligne de démarcation que ceux qui seront munis de passeports en règle.

2. Donner les ordres les plus formels aux Maires des communes limitrophes pour interdire l'entrée et le séjour d'individus suspects ou sans occupation dans leurs villages et pour empêcher le transport ou le recel d'armes et de munitions. Ces Maires devront signaler aux autorités civiles et militaires le moindre fait de cette nature. Au cas où, ils ne se conformeraient pas à ces ordres, ils seront révoqués, donnés sous jugement et punis trés sévèrement

3. Aussitôt qu'ils auront avis de la présence d'individus suspects, isolés ou en bande, dans la zone-frontière ou à proximité de la ligne de démarcation, les Sous-Préfets devront immédiatement, de concert avec les commandants de la garde-frontière et d'après les prescriptions de ceux-ci, faire conduire les dits individus dans l'intérieur du pays. Ils porteront ces faits à la connaissance des Préfets respectifs et du Ministère.

(Translation.)

Extract from the Circular addressed on February 13 (20) *by the Minister of the Interior to the Prefects of Kustendil, Plovdiv, Bourgas, Stara-Zagora, and Sophia.* (*Copy sent to Prefects of other Districts.*)

In conformity with the Decree of the Council of Ministers I request you immediately to take the following measures, and to see to their strict and rigorous application, for which I shall hold you personally responsible :—

1. Inform the Sous-Préfets that they are placed under the direct orders of the Officers Commanding the frontier-guard of their district in order to safeguard the tranquillity and security of the frontier, to prevent the approach or passage of suspects, the formation of bands of every description, armed or otherwise, and their passage into Turkey.

The line of demarcation may be crossed only by those persons who are provided with passports in proper order.

2. To give the most formal orders to Mayors of communes situated on the frontier in order to prevent the entry and stay of suspects or of individuals without employment in their villages, and to prevent the transport and concealing of arms and ammunition. The aforesaid Mayors must inform the civil and military authorities of the smallest detail of this nature. In case they do not act in conformity with these orders, they will be dismissed, tried, and very severely punished.

3. As soon as they receive information of the presence of suspects, either isolated or in bands, in the frontier zone or near the line of demarcation, the Sous-Préfets must immediately, in concert with the commanders of the frontier-guard, and, in accordance with the advice of the latter, have the aforesaid individuals conducted into the interior of the country. The respective Prefects and the Ministry will be informed of these facts.

Télégramme du Ministre de l'Intérieur à tous le Préfets, le 10 (23) *Mars*, 1905.

On m'informe que dans certaines localités s'organiseraient des bandes pour passer en Macédoine et dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople. Je vous réitère mes précédentes instructions, et je vous invite à prendre des mesures sévères à l'effet d'empêcher la formation de bandes quelconques et leur passage par la frontière. Les individus signalés avec de pareilles intentions devront être arrêtés et conduits dans l'intérieur du pays. La frontière doit être rigoureusement gardée, et ne pourront la traverser que les personnes munies de passeports réguliers et voyageant pour affaires. Concertez-vous sur ce qui précède avec les autorités militaires de la garde-frontière qui ont reçu les ordres du Ministre de la Guerre. En cas de non-exécution des mesures prescrites par le présent télégramme, je tiendrai responsable les autorités administratives et de police.

(Translation.)

Telegram from the Minister of the Interior to all Prefects, March 10 (23), 1905.

I am informed that in certain localities bands are being organized in order to cross into Macedonia and into the vilayet of Adrianople. I repeat my preceding instructions to you, and request you to take severe measures in order to prevent the

formation of bands of all sorts, and also their passage over the frontier. Individuals designated as having such intentions must be arrested and conveyed into the interior of the country. The frontier must be rigorously guarded, and may be crossed only by persons provided with passports in proper order, and who are travelling on business.

Concert measures with regard to the above with the military authorities of the frontier-guard, who have received orders from the Minister of War. In case of non-execution of the measures prescribed by the present telegram, the administrative and police authorities will be held responsible.

Extrait de la Circulaire du Ministre de la Guerre aux Commandants de Division, le 9 Mars, 1905.

Comme suite aux ordres de l'an dernier, je vous invite à prendre les mesures les plus sévères pour garder la frontière de la division placée sous votre commandement contre les incursions de bandes ou d'individus isolés.

(Translation.)

Extract from the Circular sent by the Minister of War to Commandants of Division, March 9, 1905.

In accordance with the orders of last year I request you to take the severest measures in order to guard the frontier of the division placed under your command against the incursions of bands or of isolated individuals.

No. 84.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 10.)

(Extract.) *Sophia, April* 1, 1905.

I CALLED this morning on M. Petkoff, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and inquired what view his Excellency took of the outlook in Macedonia, and whether it was true, as commonly reported, that General Tsoncheff intended to make a demonstration in the Nevrokop district.

M. Petkoff replied that, while he could not answer for everything which might take place on the other side of the frontier, he had every reason to believe that there would be no serious outbreak this summer. Whatever influence the Bulgarian Government possessed with the insurgent leaders had been exercised, and he hoped with success, in the cause of peace. He had heard of the report to which I had referred, and had sent for General Tsoncheff to question him on the subject. In the course of their conversation, General Tsoncheff had remarked that it was useless for him to embark on any insurrectionary enterprise unless Bulgaria was prepared to go to war, whereupon his Excellency had told him that the Government had no intention of allowing him to force a war upon them, and would not hesitate to order his arrest if he made any attempt to cross the frontier. It was true, his Excellency continued, that General Petroff had been seriously alarmed a month ago by the reports which had reached him of Turkey's military preparations, and had even at one moment seriously contemplated the mobilization of the Bulgarian army; but, on the matter being referred to the Prince, His Royal Highness had telegraphed to say that the assurances which he had received during his recent visits to London, Paris, and Berlin had removed his apprehensions of any aggressive action on the part of Turkey.

M. Petkoff even admitted that whatever steps Turkey may have taken, with a view to strengthening her military forces in Macedonia, may have been prompted by the fear of a renewal of the insurrectionary movement, and of the possibility that, in such an event, Bulgaria might be dragged into the conflict.

His Excellency then proceeded to express the satisfaction with which he had read the telegraphic summary of your Lordship's speech in the House of Lords.

At the close of our conversation, M. Petkoff renewed the assurances which he had already given me, that, so far as it depended on Bulgaria, there would be no serious

disturbance of the peace this summer. His Excellency, however, after remarking that the mandate of the two Civil Agents would expire in October, added somewhat significantly that it was impossible that the present deplorable situation in Macedonia could be allowed to continue indefinitely.

No. 85.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith two despatches from the British Acting Consul at Monastir, reporting on further acts of aggression and outrage committed by Greeks on Bulgarians and *vice versâ* in that town and neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March* 21, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following further acts of lawlessness and outrage which have taken place in this vilayet during the past ten days, and which show that the feelings of animosity between Greeks and Bulgarians, to which I have so frequently had occasion to refer, are increasing rather than diminishing in intensity.

The first of these incidents took place on the 12th instant, in the streets of Monastir itself, when a party of four or five Bulgarians, on being insulted in the vicinity of the Bulgarian church by a number of disorderly Greek youths, retaliated by firing into the latter, wounding two, one of whom has since succumbed in hospital.

The prompt arrest of the individuals guilty of firing the shots did not, it appears, have the effect of appeasing the resentment of the Greeks, as, on the day following, an attack was made by a party of the latter on a certain Dr. Vladoff, a respected member of the Bulgarian community in this town, in no way concerned in the incident above related, no less than four shots, none of which, however, fortunately took effect, being fired at him in his carriage as he was paying his usual round of medical visits.

A noteworthy feature in connection with this latter affair is that, although a Greek member of the police force was present while the shots were being fired, no attempt was made by him to prevent the outrage or to arrest the perpetrators. The police officer in question has, I have been informed by the Governor-General, since been placed under arrest, but I may add, as illustrating the present entirely anomalous nature of the situation in this part of Macedonia, that it is believed by no one with whom I have spoken on the matter that a Bulgarian member of the force would have behaved differently had the positions been reversed and the assailants been Bulgarians instead of Greeks.

Finally, on the night of the 17th instant, a Patriarchist priest, named Anghelos, was, together with his brother and nephew, put to death at Srptsi, a village situated on the road from Monastir to Kroushevo, by a large band of Bulgarian revolutionaries, who then dispersed, but not before they had burned the house of the priest in question, together with two others belonging to his relatives. The great majority of the inhabitants of Srptsi are, I am told, in favour of going over to the Exarchate, and the death of three above-mentioned individuals is universally attributed to the fact that they were believed by the revolutionaries to stand in the way of the villagers carrying out their intention.

Numerous arrests have been made in connection with the above affair, but as the villagers, in the present state of terrorism, are extremely unwilling to give information of any kind to the authorities, even if able to do so, it is not likely that the latter will succeed in laying their hands on the actual aggressors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March 27, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the attack on Dr. Vladoff, referred to in my despatch of the 21st instant, was followed up on Wednesday last by an attempt to assassinate a certain Daniel Rizoff, a prominent member of the Bulgarian community in this town. The latter, it appears, was proceeding to church about 9 o'clock in the morning of the day in question, and had just passed a café in a thoroughfare not far from the principal street of Monastir, when four shots were fired at him by two youths armed with revolvers, who had approached him from behind. Two of these shots took effect, one bullet lodging in his forearm, while another penetrated the body at the side, inflicting a wound which, though sufficiently serious, is, fortunately, not expected to prove fatal. Several individuals belonging to the Greek party, suspected of being the authors of the above outrage, have been arrested by the authorities, but none of them, so far, have been positively identified by Rizoff.

It is generally felt that the Greeks, if only from the point of view of their own interests, would do well to discountenance, by all means in their power, attempts at retaliation of the nature above described. The course they now appear to be adopting is a particularly dangerous one at Monastir, where their community, composed as it is largely of individuals of the better class engaged in mercantile pursuits, is much more open to acts of reprisal than is the case with the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 86.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 4, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, reporting on an encounter between Turkish troops and a band of Bulgarian revolutionaries at Abdi Pasha Han.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March 21, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a further encounter between a band of Bulgarian revolutionaries and a detachment of Turkish troops some 150 strong took place in the early morning of the 12th instant at a resting-place called Abdi Pasha Han, situated about half-way on the road between Perlépé and the Gradsko station on the Salonica–Uskub Railway. According to the Turkish version of this latest affair, seven of the revolutionaries were killed, while five were captured, together with four bombs and six rifles of the Männlicher and Gras pattern, as also a quantity of wire for an electrical apparatus. From a report, however, on the matter furnished by Captain Luzzi, attached to the Imperial gendarmerie, to Colonel Albera I learn that while the Turkish account as regards the capture of rifles, bombs, and wire apparatus is substantially correct, it would appear that of the seven persons

killed only two, it was stated to Captain Luzzi by the villagers in the course of his investigations, were revolutionaries properly so called, the remaining five being composed of the innkeeper and his two assistants, with two Bulgarian peasants, who, unfortunately for themselves, happened to be in the inn at the time, and who, it is said, did not form part of the band above referred to. It was further asserted that the latter were needlessly sacrificed by the soldiers after an entry into the inn had been finally effected, but as Captain Luzzi expressly stated in his report above alluded to that it was impossible for him to verify the exactitude of this statement, and, further, that before the actual combat began three individuals, believed to be Vlah merchants, were allowed free egress by the troops, I should hesitate considerably to affirm the truth of the above accusation failing further independent testimony.

I would beg to explain that the delay in forwarding to your Excellency my present report is due to the fact that the first accounts which reached Monastir of the above affair were extremely conflicting, and that I was unable to obtain positive information on the matter until I had had an opportunity of perusing Captain Luzzi's letter to Colonel Albera. I would further take this opportunity of calling your Excellency's attention to the services which are being rendered by the Italian officers attached to the gendarmerie. The personal investigations carried out by them into the affairs at Negovani, Olévéni, and Srptsi, reported in my despatches of the 4th, 14th, and 21st instant respectively, and now into the most recent one at Abdi Pasha Han, have been of the utmost value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 87.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 4, 1905.*

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch of the 10th January last,* I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, reporting on the anarchical state of affairs in the Castoria district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 87.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March 29, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, as the following list of outrages, all of which have taken place during the past fifteen or twenty days, will show, the state of affairs in the Castoria district can only be described as completely anarchical.

On the 11th instant the Convent of Tcherilevo, to the east of the Lake of Castoria, was entered by a band of Bulgarian revolutionaries and totally burned in revenge, it is stated, for the murder by the Greek party, at the convent in question, of three Bulgarian Exarchists in December 1904, as reported in my despatch of the 2nd January of this year to Mr. Townley.* The assassination three days later, presumably by the same band, of a Greek of the Village of Setoma, situated on the lake above referred to, led to the murder by the Greeks on the 18th instant of a certain Christo, the Headman of the Exarchist Village of Bulgaro-Blatsi. The latter individual, it appears, was in possession of a sum of some 400 Turkish liras destined for the relief of the Bulgarian villages in that district destroyed in the events of the year 1903. And the leader of the band responsible for Christo's murder is said to have remarked with a certain grimness that the money so found would be very serviceable towards the rebuilding of the Tcherilevo Convent which, as above stated, had been destroyed a few days previously by the Bulgarians.

On the 22nd instant a certain Anthemios, the Prior of the Monastery of St. Nicholas

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)," No. 145

at Sliveni, not far from Castoria, was, together with a priest named Manos, put to death by another band of Bulgarian revolutionaries about 100 strong, the monastery itself, as in the case of the convent at Tcherilevo, being completely burned.

The immunity from interference enjoyed by these revolutionaries during the above events would appear to have had the effect of encouraging them to commit still further excesses, as a day or two ago information was received at Monastir that a party of gendarmes proceeding to Zelovo, near Pisodéré, in company with a Patriarchist priest and an individual named Lambros, was on the 26th instant taken by surprise by a number of Bulgarians near the latter village, with the result that Lambros, with three of the gendarmes, was killed, and one of the latter wounded. The priest, however, would appear to have succeeded in making his escape.

I have already on several occasions alluded to the difficulty experienced by the Turkish authorities in dealing with these bands, owing to the unwillingness of the villagers to give information as to their proceedings. To this difficulty must be added a further one, of which the Governor-General has frequently complained to me, viz., that in the suppression of this particular kind of disorder no assistance can be looked for from the Christian members of the force of village watchmen. The latter, in fact, are merely partizans, and, indeed, I hardly see how this can be otherwise in the present position of affairs between Bulgarians and Greeks, each side being engaged as it is in fighting for what it considers to be a national cause. These village watchmen are, moreover, well aware that should the identity of any of the participants in these outrages be denounced by them, they would only draw upon themselves a savage reprisal, against which such slight official status as they may have would afford no protection whatever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 88.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 4, 1905.

IN a telegram dated yesterday, which I received this morning, His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub reported that a conflict took place on the 1st instant at a locality some two hours distant from Koumanova between the troops and a band of twelve Servians. On either side four lives were lost, but the soldiers succeeded in capturing the remaining members of the band, who the next morning were transferred to Koumanova. Their escort, however, was overpowered by the Mussulman population and the prisoners were killed, no attempt being made to rescue them from the mob.

Mr. Satow's account of the occurrence is practically confirmed by the information received by telegram from the Vali of Uskub, except that the latter places the number of prisoners at seven instead of eight. According to the Vali's statements, the population of Koumanova, reinforced by numbers of the inhabitants of neighbouring villages, who flocked to the town on hearing of the encounter, became so incensed at the sight of the bodies of the dead soldiers, that they rushed the escort and seized and lynched the prisoners. Order was, he says, immediately restored, and a number of the ringleaders of the mob have been arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 89.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 5, 1905.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 14th ultimo, informing me that a question had been asked in the House of Commons on the subject of the number of houses in the villages of Malesia and Dubnitsa which have been rebuilt by the Turkish Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the Acting British Consul at Monastir, to whom I referred for information.

Mr. Shipley, as your Lordship will observe, reports that nothing whatever has been done in the matter owing to the penury of the Provincial Treasury, which is overcharged with demands which it is unable to meet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Acting Consul Shipley to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, March* 28, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 20th instant, on the subject of the rebuilding of the houses in the Malesia and Dubnitsa districts of the Okrida Kaza, I at once took an opportunity of bringing the matter to the notice of the Governor-General, Hazim Bey, asking the latter whether any steps in this direction had been taken by the Turkish Government. In reply, his Excellency admitted that nothing had as yet been done, adding, however, that the matter would receive due consideration when the approach of the summer season rendered building operations again possible.

In connection with the above reply of his Excellency, I should state that I believe it to be the fact that, if during the past summer nothing was done by the Turkish Government towards the rebuilding of these houses, this was chiefly due to an absolute lack of funds available for the purpose. The latter difficulty, there is reason to fear, will during the present year be again in the way of an effective reconstruction, unless it be found possible under the recent financial arrangement between the Ottoman Bank and the Porte to include a separate credit on the above account in the forthcoming Budget of the vilayet. The allocation of some such special sum would seem to be the more admissible in view of the unanimity of the Civil Agents, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 5th October, 1904,* as to the absolute necessity of reinstating these villagers in their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 90.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 29th ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Grand Vizier relative to the burning of the village of Zervi, and the deplorable impression produced in Europe by the repetition of such incidents.

Your language to Ferid Pasha on this subject is approved by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 91.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 11, 1905.

MACEDONIAN reforms.

I have been informed to-day by Count Goluchowski that it has been agreed by Russia and Austria-Hungary that four Delegates, to act with their Civil Agents in controlling the proper execution in the Macedonian vilayets of the new financial scheme, should be selected by the four other Powers.

His Excellency took care to explain that the functions of these Delegates would not entitle them to take part in the other duties with which the Civil Agents of the

* See "Turkey No. 2 (1905)" No. 44.

two Powers were now intrusted, and would be limited to the control of the money which, under the new scheme, it was intended to raise and to expend.

He added that the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors at Constantinople were in consultation with their colleagues on the subject, and that he trusted that it would soon be possible to arrive at an understanding on the above basis.

No. 92.

Prince Schönburg to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 12.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le* 12 *Avril,* 1905.

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique a eu l'honneur de recevoir la communication de votre Excellence en date du 28 Mars dernier, et n'a pas manqué d'en porter la teneur à la connaissance de son Gouvernement.

Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal, tout en ne croyant pas devoir entrer dans les détails des considérations qu'il a plu à votre Excellence de développer dans la communication susmentionnée quant au projet élaboré par les Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie à Constantinople pour régler les finances des trois vilayets Macédoniens—projet qui, du reste, pourrait encore être soumis à des modifications—ne saurait passer sous silence trois objections spéciales contenues dans la note de votre Excellence, et qui ont particulièrement attiré l'attention du Cabinet de Vienne.

Ces trois objections se rapportent—

1. Au terme de "Puissances intéressées," employé dans le projet de Règlement pour désigner l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie;

2. A la durée de leur mandat réformateur; et

3. Au désir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de voir le programme de Mürzsteg étendu au Vilayet d'Andrinople.

Quant au terme de "Puissances intéressées" appliqué à l'Autriche-Hongrie et à la Russie, ce terme devait, dans l'idée des auteurs du projet de finance, préciser que les deux Puissances qui, avec le consentement de l'Europe, entreprirent l'œuvre de réformes en Macédoine avaient par-là même un intérêt tout spécial à la réussite de leur entreprise; on n'avait nullement l'intention, en désignant l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie comme "Puissances intéressées," de nier l'intérêt des autres Puissances à l'action réformatrice, appuyée et secondée par elles.

En présence des interprétations soulevées par ce terme, les Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie sont du reste tout disposés à lui substituer des nouvelles rédactions.

La seconde des objections de votre Excellence est celle relative à la durée du mandat des Puissances de l'entente.

En ce qui concerne cette durée, il est à relever que les Puissances en question n'ont jamais assumé l'obligation de mener à bonne fin l'œuvre réformatrice entreprise par elles, dans un laps de temps déterminé; elles n'auraient pu le faire pour la simple raison qu'elles ne pouvaient se dissimuler les nombreuses difficultés qu'elles allaient rencontrer dans l'accomplissement de leur tâche. Il eut été, en effet, téméraire de supposer qu'on pût remédier en quelques mois à une situation aussi déplorable que celle des vilayets de la Macédoine au début de l'action. Le mandat des Agents Civils a été, il est vrai, limité vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte à la durée de deux ans; cette limitation n'a cependant eu lieu que pour faire comprendre à la Sublime Porte qu'il ne dépendait en quelque sorte que d'elle de mettre un terme à la tutelle des Agents Civils par le concours actif apporté par la Turquie à l'œuvre réformatrice. Une autre raison qui détermina les Puissances de l'entente à fixer à deux ans le mandat de ces Agents fut celle de faire concorder la durée de ce mandat avec celui des fonctions de l'Inspecteur-Général des trois vilayets de la Macédoine. L'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie ont cependant toujours envisagé l'éventualité de prolonger le mandat des Agents Civils comme une nécessité s'imposant par la force des circonstances, et rendant leur rappel impossible tant que l'œuvre réformatrice confiée à leurs soins n'aurait pas abouti à un résultat satisfaisant et durable.

Quant au désir du Cabinet de Londres de voir le programme de Mürzsteg appliqué au Vilayet d'Andrinople, le point de vue y relatif du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal est le suivant:—

Pour éviter que l'application des réformes aux trois Vilayets de la Macédoine ne

fût retardée outre mesure, l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie s'étaient décidées d'exclure celui d'Andrinople du domaine des réformes, en se réservant d'aborder, s'il y a lieu, l'étude de cette question à un moment ultérieur.

De l'avis des Cabinets de Vienne et de Saint-Pétersbourg il est tout au moins inopportun de s'occuper aujourd'hui d'une réforme de l'administration dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople, tandis que la situation dans les Provinces de Cossovo, Monastir, et Salonique laisse encore tant à désirer et que nous continuons à nous heurter à tout bout de champ sur ce terrain à la résistance de la Sublime Porte. Lui annoncer à l'heure qu'il est que les Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie ont l'intention de soumettre le Vilayet d'Andrinople au régime du programme de Mürzsteg augmenterait les difficultés de la situation et retarderait à l'infini la solution des nombreuses questions déjà pendantes.

Le Soussigné aime à croire que les observations qu'il vient d'exposer seront appréciées par votre Excellence dans un esprit d'amitié et de confiance et pourront l'éclairer sur les vues désintéressées des Cabinets de Vienne et de Saint-Pétersbourg, l'amenant ainsi à continuer son entier appui à l'œuvre réformatrice entreprise par les deux Puissances.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) SCHÖNBURG.

(Translation.)

My Lord Marquess, *London, April* 12, 1905.

THE Embassy of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty have had the honour to receive your Excellency's communication under date of the 28th ultimo, and have not failed to bring the substance of it to the knowledge of their Government.

The Imperial and Royal Government, while not considering it necessary to enter into the details of the considerations which your Excellency was good enough to put forward in the above-mentioned communication with regard to the scheme prepared by the Ambassadors of Austria-Hungary and Russia at Constantinople, for the regulation of the finances of the three Macedonian vilayets—a scheme which, moreover, might still be modified in certain particulars—are unable to pass over in silence three special objections contained in your Excellency's note, which have particularly attracted the attention of the Cabinet of Vienna.

These three objections refer:—

1. To the term "Powers interested," employed in the scheme of arrangement to designate Austria-Hungary and Russia.

2. To the duration of the mandate for carrying out reforms.

3. To the desire of His Britannic Majesty's Government to see the Mürzsteg programme extended to the Vilayet of Adrianople.

As regards the term "Powers interested," applied to Austria-Hungary and Russia, this term was intended, in the view of the authors of the finance scheme, to make it clear that the two Powers which, with the consent of Europe, undertook the work of reform in Macedonia, had by that very fact a special interest in the success of their enterprise. There was no intention, by designating Austria-Hungary and Russia as "Powers interested," to deny the interest of the other Powers in the work of reform which they support and second.

In view of the interpretations put on this term, the Governments of Austria and Russia are, moreover, quite ready to substitute other words for it.

The second of your Excellency's objections is that relating to the duration of the mandate of the two Powers who are acting together.

As regards this duration of time, it must be pointed out that the Powers in question have never taken upon themselves the obligation of completing the work of reform which they have undertaken within a definite space of time. They would have been unable to do so, for the simple reason that they could not blind themselves to the numerous difficulties which they were about to meet in the accomplishment of their task. It would, in fact, have been rash to suppose that a situation as deplorable as that of the vilayets of Macedonia was at the outset, could have been remedied in a few months. The mandate of the Civil Agents has been, it is true, limited, as regards the Sublime Porte, to the period of two years. This limitation was, however, only made in order to give the Sublime Porte to understand that it only depended in a certain measure on them to put an end to the guardianship of the Civil Agents by giving active assistance to the work of reform. Another reason which induced the two Powers to fix the mandates

of these Agents at two years was to make the term of this mandate coincide with that of the functions of the Inspector-General of the three vilayets of Macedonia. Austria-Hungary and Russia have, however, always kept in view the eventuality of prolonging the mandate of the Civil Agents as a necessity imposed by the force of circumstances, and rendering their recall impossible so long as the work of reform confided to their care had not ended in a satisfactory and desirable result.

As regards the desire of the London Cabinet to see the Mürzsteg programme applied to the Vilayet of Adrianople, the following is the point of view of the Imperial and Royal Government in regard to it:—

To avoid the application of the reforms to the three Vilayets of Macedonia being unduly retarded, Austria-Hungary and Russia decided to exclude that of Adrianople from the field of reforms, reserving to themselves to approach the study of this question at a later date, should occasion arise.

In the opinion of the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburgh, it is, to say the least, inopportune to deal now with a reform of the administration in the Vilayet of Andrianople, while the situation in the Provinces of Kossovo, Monastir, and Salonica still leaves so much to be desired, and while in this region we continue to encounter the resistance of the Sublime Porte at every turn. To announce to it at the present moment that the Governments of Austria-Hungary and of Russia intend to place the Vilayet of Andrianople under the régime of the Mürzsteg programme would increase the difficulties of the situation, and indefinitely retard the solution of the numerous questions already pending.

The undersigned hopes that the observations he has just made will be appreciated by your Excellency in a spirit of friendship and of confidence, and will enlighten you as to the disinterested views of the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburgh, thereby inducing you to continue your full support to the work of reform undertaken by the two Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SCHÖNBURG.

No. 93.

Count Benckendorff to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 12.)

M. le Marquis, *Londres, le* 12 *Avril,* 1905.

L'AMBASSADE Impériale s'est empressée de porter à la connaissance de son Gouvernement la teneur de la note adressée par votre Excellence à l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie à Londres en date du 28 Mars, et dont vous avez bien voulu me faire l'honneur de me communiquer simultanément copie.

[The remainder of this communication is the same as the Memorandum communicated by Prince Schönburg, *mutatis mutandis:* see No. 92.]

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) BENCKENDORFF.

(Translation.)

My Lord Marquess, *London, April* 12, 1905.

THE Imperial Embassy hastened to convey to its Government the purport of the note addressed by your Excellency to the Ambassador of Austria-Hungary in London, under date of the 28th ultimo, a copy of which you did me the honour of communicating to me at the same time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BENCKENDORFF.

No. 94.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir C. Hardinge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1905.

THE Russian Ambassador left with me to-day a letter, a copy of which is attached to this despatch,* in reply to the note which I addressed to the Austrian Ambassador on the 28th March, a copy of which had been simultaneously communicated to his Excellency.

I told Count Benckendorff that the important paper which he had placed in my hands deserved, and would receive, our most attentive examination. I could only offer him at present my personal impressions derived from a somewhat hurried perusal of the document.

I noticed with satisfaction that the two Powers were prepared to admit that the expression "Puissances intéressées" was not intended to imply that the other Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin were to be denied their right of making their influence felt in connection with the elaboration and execution of measures of reform for Macedonia. We had never denied that the two Powers had a special interest in these Turkish provinces, but we could not consent to place ourselves unreservedly in their hands.

As for the duration of the mandate, it still seemed to me that the language of the Mürzsteg scheme showed distinctly that the two years' term therein mentioned marked a limit beyond which the experiment which the two Powers had been authorized to conduct was not to be prolonged, except by the special authorization of the other Powers. We therefore claimed a right to be consulted as to any ulterior measures which might be adopted for the amelioration of the condition of the vilayets. We had taken exception to the scheme of financial reforms lately put forward by the two Powers because it seemed to arrogate to them the right of indefinitely prolonging a privileged position which had been granted to them for a specified period only. As for the suggestion contained in Count Benckendorff's letter, that the withdrawal of the mandate was out of the question until the work of reformation intrusted to the two Powers had produced a satisfactory and enduring result, I pointed out that, if this interpretation were to be literally adopted, it might, considering our past experience of Turkish reforms, have the effect of prolonging the mandate to all eternity.

I expressed great regret at the exception taken to our proposal to extend the reforms to the Vilayet of Adrianople.

At the end of our conversation I expressed the satisfaction with which I had heard from His Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna that the two Governments were prepared to agree to the appointment of financial Delegates by the other Powers. I regarded this as at all events a step in the right direction, although I learned with regret that the two Powers desired to restrict the functions of these additional Delegates within narrow limits, and in such a manner as apparently to place them in a position of inferiority to the existing Civil Agents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 95.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Plunkett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1905.

THE Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires left with me to-day a letter, of which a copy is attached to this despatch,† containing the reply of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the note which I addressed on the 28th March to Count Mensdorff on the subject of the scheme of financial reforms for Macedonia recently put forward by the two Powers. I had a short conversation upon the subject with Prince Schönburg, during which I spoke to him in the same terms as those which I had already used during my conversation this afternoon with the Russian Ambassador, who had handed to me a similar communication from the Russian Government.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* No. 93.

† No. 92.

No. 96.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1905.

I HAD some conversation to-day with the Italian Ambassador upon the subject of Macedonia, and particularly as to the proposal, which I understood was to be made to us, that the Powers should be invited to appoint financial agents to co-operate with the Civil Agents now employed by the two Powers under the Mürzsteg programme. His Excellency agreed with the opinion which I ventured to express, that, although the proposal was a step in the right direction, it did not go far enough. He thought, however, that it might be of use as a basis for further discussion, and he promised to make me aware as soon as possible of the manner in which it was regarded by the Italian Government.

His Excellency was good enough to say that the Italian Government would certainly be favourable to our proposal to extend the reforms to the Adrianople vilayet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 97.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on the events which occurred in that vilayet during the month of March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, March* 31, 1905.

I BEG to report that the past month has been marked by two successes gained by troops over bands, at Gradishta, and at Stupla (Kochana), where the presence of a band of fifteen persons was notified to the Kaïmakam by the Mukhtar. The band, unaware of this, went on their way and were met by troops who captured nine of them without a struggle.

In both these cases the bands were passing through on their way to Monastir, and there has lately, I believe, been a steady flow of Komitajis in that direction.

At the Servian village of Banianya a conflict took place between a Servian band of twenty and a Bulgarian one of thirteen. The Bulgars had been putting pressure on the villagers, who called in their compatriots to their aid. The Bulgars lost two killed and two wounded. The Servian losses were nil.

There is no diminution in the number of crimes reported. The following are those which have come to my notice:—

At Banianya a Moslem has been killed by Komitajis.

At Keshana the wife and daughter of Pop Petré, Servian Vicar-General of Kochana, whose murder was reported in my despatch of the 28th February last, have also been killed by Bulgarian Komitajis.

At Orasha the Greek clerk of a mine belonging to Messrs. Allatini was wounded by Albanians whom he had displeased.

At Osentsa (? Osinchani) four Bulgars were attacked by Moslems. Three were killed and the fourth wounded.

At Kochana the "Kehaya" Nuri has been murdered.

At Sopishta a Bulgar has been murdered.

At Boyanofché the Serb Yuvan Velko has been wounded by Moslems.

At Mlado-Nagorichino the Servian schoolmaster Slaveco was murdered by Bulgars who escaped.

At Izvor (Kiuprulu) three shepherds were killed, it is alleged, by Komitajis.

Near Mirkovtsé two Serbs have been killed and a third wounded by Turks.

At Prisrend a Servian zaptieh was attacked by the two sons of the well-known Rustem of Kabash, now in exile, who had sworn to kill him in revenge for his share in the capture of their father. He shot them and their companion, but himself died later of his wounds.

At Yaboltsa one Bulgar as been killed and one wounded.

At Kanarevo (Koumanova) Nikola Misheff was killed by ten Komitajis, probably Serbs from Makresh.

At Staro-Nagorichino the wife of the Serb Serafim has been killed with an axe by persons unknown.

The "Kehaya" of Ahmed Effendi of Khas Yeni Keni (Kiuprulu) has been murdered at Zebir by Uché Taneff.

At Miratovtsé (Preshova) the miller Izlatan has been found dead. His partners have been arrested on suspicion.

At Mlado-Nagorichino the miller Traiko has been killed.

At Tabanofché a Serb named Yuvan has been wounded by one Zafir.

At Vranitsa (Kalkandelen) two Serbs have been found murdered.

At Varvara Chiftlik, near Uskub, a farm belonging to the dragoman of the Greek Consulate, five Albanians appeared and asked for bread. This was given by a Bulgar named Toshé. He, his son Yorghé, a peasant named Nikola, and the latter's son were then murdered. It is presumed that these crimes were instigated by an Albanian who had recently been dismissed.

At Bobuzhda the nephew of Mitré has been killed by persons unknown.

At Radusha one Albanian was recently found dead and another wounded, while a woman was also found cut to pieces. Several Bulgars have been arrested, though the crime is without doubt one prompted by jealousy.

The Mufti of Mitrovitza has been murdered by an Albanian named Hassan.

At Harachino one Bulgar has been killed and two wounded.

At Uskub a Bulgarian milkman has been killed in the Turkish quarter by two Turks, and a Bulgarian woman murdered and her house pillaged by Moslems in the Uskub Vardar quarter.

Two Christians, on their way to Kiuprulu from Orovtsé and a woman going from Lisitsa to Drachevo have also been murdered by Moslems.

The local authorities have shown much energy recently in making arrests, and the temporary prison is being filled up with the prisoners who are constantly coming in from the kazas. There is no doubt that the majority of these arrests are made on the very slightest grounds, in accordance with the clumsy Turkish custom of indiscriminately arresting all those found near the scene of any crime. This is borne out by the fact that recently before the Extraordinary Tribunal all the parties accused of the murder of Pop Andon of Preshovo were acquitted save one, while of the sixteen persons arrested as concerned in the murder of the four Bulgars on the Kratova road (my despatch of the 28th February) only three were condemned, and their acquittal was demanded by the Public Prosecutor.

The Mudir of the Leskovitsa Nahieh has been guilty of ill-treating villagers while conducting a search for arms. He and a military officer are to be brought to trial.

Orders have recently arrived from Constantinople that no leave is to be given to Redif officers, and that measures which would ensure prompt mobilization are to be prepared.

The 3rd (Yeni Bazar) battalion of the 118th Ilavé Regiment has been called out for training, two companies at Yeni Bazar and two at Sienitsa.

There are signs of renewed agitation in Albania. Three Beys have brought in to the Vali a largely-signed petition in which the definite release of political prisoners and return of exiles is demanded. The Vali has promised a reply in ten days' time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 98.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 8, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on an attempt made by a Moslem outlaw and his band to terrorize the Servian village of Dumanofché into accepting Islam. Mr. Satow, in the latter part of his despatch, gives a more detailed account of the circumstances of the murder of the seven Servian prisoners by the populace of Koumanova, which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch of the 4th instant.

I have called the attention of the Grand Vizier to this aggravated case and startling instance of official incapacity and cruelty. His Highness did not attempt to excuse the local authorities for their inaction or the escort for their cowardice, and he promised that inquiry should be held and the responsible persons severely punished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, April 4, 1905.*

I BEG to report that a week ago the mixed village of Dumanofché, in the Koumanova Kaza, was visited by the outlaw Kourbaghi Mehmed with his band. They surrounded the village and killed the Headman, and then threatened the villagers that, unless they promised to accept Islam, they would return and massacre them. These threats resulted in the required promise being given.

On the departure of Mehmed and his band twenty villagers went into Koumanova and complained to the Kaïmakam. As the latter treated the matter as one of no importance the villagers proceeded to the telegraph office and telegraphed to the Palace, Russian Embassy, and Hilmi Pasha. The Mektubji has been sent to hold an inquiry.

The official version is that a "bekji," named Shahin, killed a Serb, and that therefore the Servian Vicar-General and schoolmasters of Koumanova called in certain villagers, and sent off, in their names, telegrams of which they did not know the contents, complaining that they were being forced to become Mussulmans.

Recently a Servian band of some seventy persons crossed the frontier near Uranya, and on the evening of the 1st instant a detachment of twelve men from this band were at Tabanofché, according to some accounts, in connection with the Dumanofché affair, Dumanofché being the next village, and, according to others, the main band having been led into an Albanian ambush, and forced to disperse in small parties.

A military patrol passed through the village late on the 1st instant, and, after receiving assurances from the "Mukhtar" that there were no Komitajis in the village proceeded in the direction of Chetirtsé. As they were leaving they were fired at, and consequently surrounded the village. In the fighting which ensued the troops lost 4 men killed and the band 5 killed and 7 prisoners.

These were sent in next morning to the town of Koumanova, with an escort of thirty soldiers.

On their arrival they were, according to the official version, attacked by a mob of infuriated Moslems, armed with axes, hammers, and other weapons, torn from their guards, who were too few to offer any effective resistance, and murdered in front of the Municipal Hall.

According to private and reliable information which I have received, the butchery was begun by an officer named Nazmi Effendi, a "Yuzbashi," who issued from the Municipal Hall with a drawn sword, and, crying out to the soldiers, "Why have you brought the giaours here alive?" cut down a prisoner. The soldiers then dispatched their prisoners, being aided by the Moslems, who ran up from the adjacent gipsy quarter, in which are all the blacksmiths' shops.

Two were killed in the "charshi," and five in front of the Municipal Hall.

Colonel Count de Salis tells me that Captain Zaccharia, whose house is near the Municipal Hall, heard the uproar, and, going to the window, saw the five men fleeing from the mob and being cut down opposite his house. He, too, had heard the version, which I give above, of the commencement of the affair, but had not personally witnessed the incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 99.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting that twenty-four villages in the Kaza of Koumanova have been induced by the efforts of the Servian propagandists to petition to be recognized as Patriarchists.

Mr. Satow states that all but five of these villages are purely Bulgar, but that their conversion to the Patriarchist Church has not yet been recognized by the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 99.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, April* 6, 1905.

I BEG to report that the following villages, of which the first five are mixed Bulgar and Serb and the remainder Bulgar, have been induced to petition to be recognized as Patriarchist—viz., Chetirtsé, Chelopek, Dobracha, Strevootsi, Jatzintsi, Karlootsé, Kozentsé, Vragotourtsa, Malotino, Remno, Arbanashka, Dobochitsa, Deïloftsé, Zhegniani, Stepantsi, Kokino, Bailoftsi, Zheliovina, Ositché, Halintsi, Breshka, Svilantsi, Kanarevo, and Mlado-Nagorichino.

All the above are in the Koumanova Kaza, and with a few exceptions belong to a group of villages situated near the border-line between the Koumanova and Egri Palanka Kazas.

Their conversion, which is not recognized by the authorities, is the result of the efforts of Servian Komitajis who have been working that district for some time past. It was said some time ago that they were trying kindness instead of force in their dealings with the villagers, by supplying them with arms gratis, paying for what they took, and in general following a line of conduct which compared favourably with that of the Bulgarian bands, and it would seem that this policy has been successful.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 100.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1905.

THE French Minister communicated to-day the accompanying copy of a note from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Turkish Embassy in Paris, containing the views of the French Government in regard to the proposed increase of the Turkish customs duties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 100.

M. Delcassé to the Turkish Embassy in Paris.—(*Communicated by M. Geoffray, April* 18.)

PAR deux notes remises le 15 Février et le 18 de ce mois, l'Ambassadeur de Turquie a bien voulu faire savoir que son Gouvernement sollicitait l'assentiment unanime des Puissances pour élever de 8 à 11 pour cent les droits d'entrée perçus par les Douanes Ottomanes, en vue de parer au déficit prévu pour le Budget des vilayets Macédoniens de Salonique, Kossovo, et Monastir.

Le Gouvernement de la République est, comme les Gouvernements de Russie et d'Autriche-Hongrie, pleinement pénétré de la nécessité de faciliter l'application des réformes, qu'il considère comme une garantie contre le retour des troubles en Macédoine, et il est disposé en principe à examiner dans l'esprit le plus favorable les suggestions de nature à atteindre un tel but.

Toute modification au régime douanier intéressant à un haut degré le commerce et les finances de la France, le Département des Affaires Étrangères, avant de faire connaître sa réponse définitive, doit naturellement se concerter avec les Départements compétents qu'il a immédiatement priés d'étudier la question, avec l'attention qu'elle comporte, dans le plus bref délai possible.

Mais, d'orès et déjà, on peut donner l'assurance que le consentement de la France à une majoration des droits de douane en Turquie devrait impliquer, de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman :

1. La mise en pratique en Macédoine d'un règlement financier qui aurait été accepté par les Puissances comme donnant toute garantie tant pour la perception que pour l'administration des revenus ;

2. L'affectation aux besoins de la Macédoine de l'excédent de recettes fourni par la surtaxe douanière ;

3. La revision préalable des Règlements Douaniers dans le sens des réclamations réitérées des Puissances.

Il y aurait lieu aussi d'abroger la Loi de 1901 sur les mines, qui soulève de nombreuses plaintes de la part des étrangers résidant en Turquie.

M. Delcassé se plaît à espérer que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman verra dans ces dispositions un nouveau témoignage de l'intérêt que le Gouvernement de la République porte au rétablissement de la tranquillité dans les Balkans.

Paris, le 25 *Mars,* 1905.

(Translation.)

BY two notes handed in on the 15th February and the 18th instant, the Ambassador of Turkey has been good enough to inform us that his Government desired the unanimous assent of the Powers to the raising of the import duties levied by the Ottoman Customs from 8 per cent. to 11 per cent., with the object of meeting the estimated deficit in the Budget of the Macedonian Vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir.

The Government of the Republic are, like the Governments of Russia and of Austria-Hungary, fully alive to the necessity of facilitating the application of the reforms, which they consider as a guarantee against the recurrence of troubles in Macedonia, and they are disposed in principle to examine in the most favourable spirit suggestions likely to attain this end.

As any modification of the Customs system is of deep interest to the commerce and finances of France, the Department of Foreign Affairs, before giving its definite answer, must naturally consult the competent Departments, which it at once begged to study the question, with the attention which it demands, with the least possible delay.

But the assurance can already be given that the consent of France to an increase of the customs duties in Turkey should imply, on the part of the Ottoman Government—

1. The putting into practice in Macedonia of a financial arrangement which had been accepted by the Powers as giving every guarantee as well for the collection as for the administration of the revenues.

2. The application to the needs of Macedonia of the surplus of receipts furnished by the Customs surtax.

3. The preliminary revision of the Customs Regulations in the sense of the repeated representations of the Powers.

It would be advisable, too, to abrogate the Mining Law of 1901, which causes numerous complaints on the part of foreigners residing in Turkey.

M. Delcassé hopes that the Imperial Ottoman Government will see in these statements fresh evidence of the interest taken by the Government of the Republic in the re-establishment of peace in the Balkans.

Paris, March 25, 1905.

No. 101.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir G. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1905.

THE Bulgarian Agent told me to-day that he had been instructed to call my attention to further conflicts which had taken place in the Vilayet of Adrianople, notably to the destruction of a village named Zagorichani, in the Kaza of Kastoria. At that place on the 25th March a Greek band, numbering 200 or 300 persons, had massacred over 100 villagers. This outrage, following upon others, such as those which had taken place at Kuklitch, Koumanova, and elsewhere, had created a deplorable impression. The Bulgarian Government believed that Turkey was pursuing a policy of extermination, and feared that the Macedonian population would be driven to despair. They could not answer for what might happen in such circumstances.

The Minister also told me that, in spite of the repeated promises which the Sublime Porte had given on the subject, the Bulgarian refugees from the Vilayet of Adrianople continued to be detained under different pretexts at the frontier, and were not permitted to return to their homes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 102.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Prince Schönburg.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 20, 1905.

HIS Majesty's Government have given their careful consideration to the note dealing with Macedonian affairs which you were good enough to leave with me on the 12th instant. I will, in the following observations, refer briefly to the three points to which your observations were mainly directed.

His Majesty's Government observe with pleasure that the Austro-Hungarian Government do not interpret the expression "Puissances intéressées" as applying to the two Powers only. His Majesty's Government, on the other hand, have never denied that Austria-Hungary and Russia, owing to their geographical situation, and for other reasons, are specially interested in the tranquillity of the three vilayets, but it was never intended that this country should retire from the position which, as one of the Powers Signatories of the Treaties of Paris and of Berlin, it has from the first taken up in regard to the European provinces of Turkey.

With reference to the duration of the mandate given to the two Powers beyond the period of two years specifically mentioned in the Mürzsteg Programme as the term for which their respective Agents were appointed, it is, no doubt, true, as you have pointed out, that the two Powers never entered into a contract to complete the work of reformation within so short a period. Any such engagement on their part would, as you observe, have been an extremely rash one. The limitation of the appointment to two years was, however, regarded by His Majesty's Government as an admission that at the expiration of that term a full opportunity would be offered to the other Powers of satisfying themselves as to the progress which had been achieved and the adequacy of the measures resorted to on the initiative of the two Agents. It is unnecessary to point out that an arrangement to this effect would be widely different from a mandate unconditionally renewable for an indefinite period of time. If, there-

* Also to Count Benckendorff, *mutatis mutandis.*

fore, the two Powers had intimated that the limit of two years had been suggested as a means of securing the acquiescence of the Sublime Porte in their proposals, His Majesty's Government could not possibly have given their support to the scheme unless they had received explicit assurances that it would be submitted to periodic revision by all the Powers.

His Majesty's Government greatly regret the opposition offered by the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments to the extension of the reforms to the Vilayet of Adrianople. It was evident that such a proposal was likely to encounter resistance at the hands of the Porte, although the announcement that the Sultan desires to take in hand the reorganization of the gendarmerie in that province, and has applied to the Italian Government for the loan of a certain number of Italian officers, shows that His Majesty's attitude is by no means irreconcileable. But, in any case, the opposition of the Turkish Government could only be overcome by the united pressure of the Powers, and there is only too much reason to fear that the decision of the two Governments to withhold their support from the proposal may prove fatal to its prospects of success. The unfortunate condition of the Vilayets of Kossovo, Monastir, and Salonica, to which reference is made by you, does not seem to be a reason for denying to the Province of Adrianople a participation in the reforms which have now been suggested for the Macedonian provinces, and the indefinite postponement of such a measure of justice can but intensify the discontent of the population, and lend additional weight to criticisms directed against the continuance of the mandate for which the two Powers are at this moment claiming an indefinite prolongation.

His Majesty's Government therefore earnestly hope that in this matter the two Governments will see their way to reconsider their decision. They notice with pleasure the admission that the financial scheme which the two Governments have lately put forward for the three vilayets is still open to modification. They have also learned with satisfaction that those Governments are prepared to agree to the appointment of Financial Agents, nominated by the other Powers, for the purpose of taking part in the supervision and execution of the proposed financial reforms. The appointment of such Delegates would, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, certainly be a step in the right direction. They understand that it is the desire of the two Governments that the functions of these additional Delegates should be strictly limited to financial control. They would, however, deprecate a too literal interpretation of this expression, and they desire in particular that the Delegates appointed should be men of recognized financial experience, and that they should be expressly commissioned to examine and report upon the Turkish scheme of financial reforms which is understood to be actually in operation, as well as the corresponding scheme of the two Powers, with the object of determining how far the provisions of both can be combined in one satisfactory system, and what modifications of the kind which you apparently contemplate might with advantage be introduced.

I beg, in conclusion, to express my entire readiness to deal with this difficult question in the spirit of the observations with which your letter concludes, and I can assure you that His Majesty's Government are animated by no other desire than that the work of reformation, the prompt accomplishment of which is so urgently necessary, should be carried to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 103.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 16, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that information has reached the British officers of the Macedonian gendarmerie, that arms are being smuggled into Macedonia by Greeks through Volo.

It is suggested that, if your Lordship approve, instructions should be sent to His Majesty's Consul at Volo to watch this matter and to keep His Majesty's Minister at Athens informed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 104.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1905.

SIR N. O'CONOR hears that arms are being smuggled into Macedonia by Greeks at Volo.

You should instruct His Majesty's Consul to watch the matter and keep you informed.

No. 105.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1905.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia,* recording a conversation with the Bulgarian Agent on the 19th instant, regarding the condition of the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I should wish to receive your observations on the statements made by M. Tzokow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 106.

M Tzokow to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 22.)

51, *Queen's Gate, Londres,*

M. le Marquis, *le* 20 *Avril*, 1905.

COMME suite à la conversation que j'ai eue l'honneur d'avoir avec votre Seigneurie hier, je m'empresse de lui communiquer les noms des points-frontières acceptés par la Sublime Porte pour le ralliement et le passage des réfugiés originaires du Vilayet d'Andrinople. Ces points-frontières sont Doudenovo, Ouroumkeuy, et Kaïbilar. Jusqu'à aujourd'hui aucun ordre n'a été transmis aux autorités locales Turques des postes situés à Doudenovo et Ouroumkeuy, ni aucune Commission n'a été envoyée dans les deux postes pour recevoir les réfugiés, malgré les avis préalables et réitérés donnés à la Sublime Porte par le Gouvernement Princier. L'unique Commission arrivée à Kaïbilar refuse de recevoir les réfugiés dont les noms ne figureraient pas sur ses propres listes, ce qui est inexplicable, toutes les personnes, dont la plupart, avec leurs familles, mentionnées dans les listes préparées par les soins du Gouvernement Bulgare, étant incontestablement originaires des localités limitrophes où elles demandent à réintégrer leurs foyers.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) D. TZOKOW.

(Translation.)

51, *Queen's Gate, London,*

My Lord Marquess, *April* 20, 1905.

FOLLOWING on the conversation which I had the honour of having with your Lordship yesterday, I hasten to communicate to you the names of the points on the frontier accepted by the Sublime Porte for the meeting or passage of the refugees belonging to the Vilayet of Adrianople. These frontier points are Doudenovo, Ouroumkeuy, and Kaibilar. Up to this day no orders have been given to the local Turkish authorities of the posts situated at Doudenovo and Ouroumkeuy, nor has any Commission been sent to the two posts to receive the refugees, in spite of the preliminary and repeated warnings given to the Sublime Porte by the Government of Principality. The one Commission, which has arrived at Kaibilar, refuses to receive refugees whose names did not figure on its own lists; this is inexplicable, seeing that all these people, of whom the greater part, together with their families, are mentioned in the lists prepared by direction of the Bulgarian Government, incontestably belong to the frontier districts where they claim to re-establish their homes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. TZOKOW.

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* No. 101.

No. 107.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 22, 1905.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday,* I have not yet received the communication from Russian and Austrian Ambassadors therein referred to.

Following is the present state of affairs here in regard to financial reforms:—

The omission of a phrase, which strictly limited the Delegates' functions to financial control only, from the proposals about to be presented to their colleagues by the Russian and Austrian Ambassadors, has been decided upon. The extension of their powers to judicial reforms later on is facilitated by this omission. The dual proposal is, we are generally agreed upon here, to be dropped in favour of the bank scheme, modified by the appointment of financial inspectors, and by the supervision of the foreign Delegates.

The proposal respecting financial inspectors as a means of strengthening the bank scheme is a point to which I attach great importance. If possible, we should define the powers of the inspectors, and it is necessary that we should decide whether they depend upon the bank officials or upon the foreign Delegates.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1905.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 8th instant, respecting the murder of Servian prisoners at Koumanova.

I approve the representation which you have addressed to the Grand Vizier on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 109.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 14, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, transmitting a Memorandum on the movements of Greek and Bulgarian bands since the beginning of March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, April 7, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Greek bands continue to circulate freely in the vilayet of Salonica, especially in the Kazas of Yenijé, Gevgeli, and Doïran; but, since the sanguinary murders on the Kara Azmak near Yenijé on the 4th March, reported in my despatch of the 11th ultimo,† they have not com-

* Summarizing No. 102.

† See No. 57.

mitted any very serious outrages, such as are reported from the southern districts of the Monastir vilayet, but have confined themselves to terrorizing black and Exarchist villages, and acting as scouts and informers to the Turkish troops operating against the Bulgarian bands. They are not pursued nor interfered with by the authorities, and in only one case have they come into collision with the Turkish forces. This was at Hassanli, in the Kaza of Doïran, where, on the 26th March, in the course of an engagement between a Bulgarian band and Turkish troops, the latter mistook a Greek band who were endeavouring to co-operate with them for Bulgarians and fired on them, killing two men. The survivors, nine Greeks and two Turks, surrendered, and have been brought to Salonica for trial.

On the Bulgarian side, there has undoubtedly been an increase in the number of Komitajis on foot. Recruits have been added to the "Regional" bands, and various leaders have returned from their winter quarters in Bulgaria to organize their commands for the coming season. Some isolated murders and "executions" have been reported, but on the whole there has been no increase in crime of that description.

The Turkish military authorities, however, have been showing much greater activity in the pursuit of Bulgarian bands, and their efforts have been alternately attended with success, as in the affairs of Mesimeri, Smol, and Livadhia, and with worse than failure in the shape of needless butchery, arson, and pillage, as at Kuklitch and Zervi, where the Komitajis escaped entirely unscathed.

Hilmi Pasha has admitted to me that in these latter cases he blames the conduct of the Commanding Officers, and states that the offenders are to be tried by court-martial. But the most disquieting symptom in connection with these affairs is the appearance on the scene of large numbers of Mussulman Bashi-bozouks, who have been allowed to share in the futile operations of the troops and in the ensuing scenes of disorder and destruction; and it is highly desirable that the civil and military authorities should at last be given distinctly to understand that their toleration of such irregularities will be visited with prompt and severe punishment.

I have the honour to inclose a list of incidents which have been brought to my notice in connection with Greek and Bulgarian bands in this vilayet since the beginning of March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Memorandum respecting Movements of Greek and Bulgarian Bands reported since March 1, 1905, *in the Vilayet of Salonica.*

March 4.—Murder of 8 Bulgarian fishermen on the Kara Azmak, near Yenijé, by a Greek band.

March 13.—A Greek band visited the village of Bogoroditsa in Gevgeli, and threatened the Bulgarian priest, Stoyan Papa Tanio, and other Notables.

March 15.—A Greek band visited the village of Popovo, in Doïran, and unsuccessfully endeavoured to blow up the house of the Bulgarian priest, Ivan Mitoff, with dynamite. Before retiring they fired a number of random shots in the village, accidentally killing a Turk who came out to see what was going on. They also wounded a miller named Traiko Petroff.

March 18.—At Elashani, near Serres, members of a Greek band were assembled in the house of Vassil Atanasoff, when they were attacked by 7 Bulgarian Komitajis, and Haralambi Dimitroff was killed, and Tolé Doneff and Petro Doneff were wounded.

March 24.—A Greek band of 40 men visited Daoud Bali, about two hours north-west of Salonica, and wounded two Bulgarians, Christo Nicoloff and Kavak Christo. A Greek named Caranasso was also accidentally wounded.

March 25.—In the operations against a Bulgarian band at Hassanli, in the Kaza of Doïran, the Turkish troops captured a band of 9 Greeks and 2 Turks, who were fighting with the Bulgarians.

March 30.—Hadji Soter, a Bulgarian of Haïvatovo, Kaza of Salonica, was waylaid and shot in two places by three Greeks on the road near his village.

Movements of Bulgarian Bands reported in Vilayet of Salonica since March 1.

March 6.—At Mesimeri, Kaza of Vodena, a band of 11 Komitajis was surrounded by Turkish troops in the village, and six were killed. Reported in Mr. Graves' despatch of the 11th March.

March 12.—On the road between Stroumnitsa and the railway station, Bulgarian Komitajis fired on a party of travellers, killing a soldier and wounding a young Turk. Troops were sent in pursuit to the village of Poptchevo, where they are said to have committed excesses, plundering houses, killing Vanghel Nicoloff, wounding Ilio Kotzeff, and beating many of the inhabitants.

March 14.—At Smol, near Gevgeli, Apostol's band of 40 men was surrrounded by troops and armed villagers, and 35 were killed. Reported in Mr. Graves' despatch of the 18th March.

March 18.—At Dren, near Demir Kapou, a Bulgarian band is said to have surprised a military patrol, killing and wounding several soldiers.

On the same day 7 Bulgarian Komitajis are said to have attacked members of a Greek band at Elashani, near Serres, killing one and wounding two. (See movements of Greek bands.)

March 19.—At Pilorit, near Yenijé, Komitajis are said to have wounded the Greek schoolmaster, Roma, and killed his wife.

March 21.—At Stroumnitsa a Greek named Spiro, said to be the organizer of a Greek band in that region, was shot by a Bulgarian in the street.

March 24.—A Bulgarian band was surrounded in the village of Zervi, near Ostrovo, by troops and armed villagers. The band escaped, but the village was plundered and burnt. Thirty-six corpses of villagers, including those of several women and children, have been taken from the ruins. A full Report on this affair will be forwarded when the gendarmerie officer's Report has been received from General Degiorgis.

On the same day at Songarovo, near Melnik, troops attacked the band of Zandanski, which escaped without losing any killed, though it is supposed that some Komitajis were wounded, as blood-stains were found. One soldier was killed and two wounded.

March 26.—At Hassanli, Kaza of Doïran, the troops attacked a small Bulgarian band, which got away without any loss after killing the police officer, Agoush Effendi, and a soldier. Subsequently the troops and armed Turkish villagers plundered Hassanli and ill-treated the villagers, one of whom was killed. The Russian gendarmerie officer, Captain Voronine, has reported this affair to General Schostak.

April 3.—At Livadia, in Gevgeli Kaza, a Bulgarian band of 20 men, under Yovan of Karason, was attacked by the Turkish troops. According to the official version all the Komitajis were killed, while one Turkish officer, a Kol Agassi, and six men were killed and several wounded.

No. 110.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir, reporting a murderous attack by Patriarchists on the Dragoman of the Bulgarian Commercial Agency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, April* 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that this morning, as M. Naum Khristoff, the Dragoman of the Bulgarian Commercial Agency, was passing through the Jewish quarter, he was approached from behind by two young Patriarchists, named

respectively Stoiché and Kapiliadis, the former of whom fired four times at M. Khristoff, almost point blank, but luckily without effect, as the cartridges missed fire. M. Khristoff had the presence of mind to pursue his assailants, who fled towards the Greek Hospital, but were eventually arrested by the police and identified at the Konak by their intended victim.

This is but the latest of the series of crimes committed by Patriarchists against Exarchists since my return to Monastir, and on which I hope to have the honour to report to your Excellency in a subsequent despatch ; but it has appeared to me that, in view of M. Khristoff's official position, and the great probability of signal reprisals on the part of the Bulgarians, the incident calls for immediate and special notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

No. 111.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 15, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir reporting an outrage by Greeks at Zagorichani in the Kaza of Kastoria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, April 9, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to information just received at Monastir, the Bulgarian village of Zagorichani, in the Kaza of Kastoria, at about an hour's distance from Vlaho-Klissoura, was, on Friday the 7th instant, the scene of an outrage surpassing in dimensions all that has hitherto been attempted by the Greeks in this vilayet.

It appears that during the night the village was attacked by a Greek band numbering about 200 men and that, before the arrival of a detachment of troops some six hours later, a large number of men, women, and children—about eighty, according to the Vali's statement—had been butchered. Fourteen houses were burnt down, and it is said that the band, although driven off by the troops, succeeded in carrying off several prisoners.

Colonel Albera, along with the Austrian and Russian Consuls, left this morning for Zagorichani, and, on their return, I hope to have the honour of reporting more fully on the occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

No. 112.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 17, 1905.*

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch of the 23rd January last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting the result of the trial of the seventy-three members of the Greek band captured near Yenijé on the 27th December, 1904. Mr. Graves animadverts on the lightness of the sentence passed—viz., two and a-half years on Yorgaki, the leader of the band, and shorter terms, varying from one to two years, on the other prisoners.

I transmit also copy of a despatch from the British Staff Officer reporting on the seizure by a patrol of gendarmerie, under British superintendence, of a cargo of arms and ammunition which was being smuggled on shore by Greeks near Cavalla.

Both Mr. Graves and Colonel Fairholme comment on the leniency shown to the Greek bands as compared with the treatment of Bulgarians, and as apparently well-founded allegations of this partiality are very frequent, I took a recent opportunity of drawing the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the matter.

I told his Excellency that, from the reports which reached me, it seemed that the leniency shown to the former amounted almost to encouragement, and that the policy ascribed to the Ottoman Government of setting race against race, in the hope that the issue would prove of advantage to Turkey, was fraught with extreme danger, and must produce a deplorable impression on public opinion in Europe. The experiment had been tried in Syria, when, previous to the events of 1860, Druses and Maronites had been pitted against each other, and his Excellency knew what the result had been. The historical analogy between the two cases appeared to me to be only too striking, and I thought the Turkish Government would do well not to neglect the lessons of the past.

Tewfik Pasha said he would repeat to the Council of Ministers the observations which I had made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, April* 11, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th January, I have the honour to report that the trial of the seventy-three members of the Greek band which was captured near Yenijé on the 27th December, 1904, was concluded yesterday. It is to be noted that these prisoners were not tried by the Extraordinary Tribunal created to deal with political offenders, but by the ordinary Court, *i.e.*, the criminal section of the Court of Appeal at Salonica.

As the prisoners had been taken in arms, it was not found possible to acquit them; but the Court decided that their offence should not be punished as a crime, but as a misdemeanour only, under Article 130 of the Penal Code, entailing a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment. The Chief of the band, Captain Yorgaki, a Christian Albanian from Monastir, who was formerly in the pay of the Bulgarian revolutionaries, and acted as guide to Colonel Yankoff's band, was condemned to two and a-half years' imprisonment.

Twenty men were condemned to two years, and twenty more to eighteen months, and the remainder to one year's imprisonment, the minimum penalty being awarded to those who claimed to have taken up arms because they had relations killed by the Bulgarian Komitajis.

The leniency of these punishments is in striking contrast to the severity of those meted out to the Bulgarians in general, or to the luckless Vlach villagers of Gevgeli Caza, condemned for harbouring bands, as reported in my despatch of the 9th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Colonel Fairholme to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Extract.) *Drama, April* 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the inclosed copy of a report on a seizure by a patrol of the gendarmerie under British superintendence of a consignment of arms and ammunition which was being surreptitiously landed near Cavalla on the night of the 8th—9th April, 1905.

Apart from the credit due to Captain Hamilton for initiating the measure which led to this capture, I think the incident is worth reporting in view of the alleged participation of a cavass of the Greek Consulate at Cavalla, and also owing to the fact that the weapons appear to have been Greek military rifles, for the most part unused, and bearing the Greek Government stamp, with the inscription "Royal Greek Army," and each rifle being numbered.

Rumours had reached me previously of the importation of arms on a considerable scale by Greeks in Cavalla, but I was not able to verify them.

Greek bands are undoubtedly on the increase, and I have just heard from Mr. Graves of the massacre of 100 Bulgarian villagers at Zagorichani, in the Castoria Kaza Monastir, which is the most serious occurrence of the kind reported since the Mürzsteg reforms were instituted.

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

Report by Yuzbashi Hamilton.

Kaïmakam Martyn, *Cavalla, April* 10, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to render the following report, after having fully investigated according to your instructions, the circumstances under which a consignment of rifles and ammunition was captured by a gendarmerie patrol on the night of the 8th–9th April near Kalamica Chiftlik, on the outskirts of Cavalla.

The patrol consisted of Onbashi Hassan-bin-Ali, first class gendarme Hassan-bin-Osman, and two soldiers of the Nizam, Moustapha Mehmed Sali Ibrahim, 4th Battalion 66th Regiment.

About 1 A.M. the patrol left the Hospital Karakol and proceeded down the road to Kalamica. On arriving at the bridge the Onbashi saw a sailing boat close in shore at the point (7), and consequently immediately hid his patrol behind the coffee-house (2). He then observed that some men were throwing rifles out of the boat on to the beach, and that four others were carrying them towards the ice factory. He shouted to them to stop, and they immediately dropped their rifles and fired five or six shots at the patrol. The patrol returned the fire, killing one of the four men and the other three ran away towards Cavalla. The Onbashi was able to recognize all four men, and is prepared to swear to their identity in a Court of Justice. They were as follows: a Greek boatman, a Greek water-carrier, a Greek servant employed in the coffee-houses 2 and 3, and a cavass belonging to the Greek Consulate.

Gendarme Hassan-bin-Osman corroborated the above, and the two soldiers recognized the cavass.

The Onbashi then sent Hassan-bin-Osman to inform Yuzbashi Gemail and the British officers, but for some reason he did not find the latter till much later. He then proceeded to the seashore in search of the boat, but it had already made good its escape in the darkness. Shortly afterwards twenty-four soldiers arrived from the Hospital Karakol, and Onbashi Hassan placed a cordon of soldiers round the neighbouring coffee-houses to prevent anybody leaving. Half-an-hour after this Yuzbashi Gemail arrived, and an hour after that an additional half company of soldiers, accompanied by a doctor called Maurice Effendi. The officer in charge of the troops, Yuzbashi Shukri Effendi, very wisely put pickets on all the roads leading to the spot at a radius of about 500 yards to prevent a crowd collecting.

About 4·45 A.M. on the night of the 8th–9th April a gendarme woke me up and I proceeded at once, according to your instructions, to the spot where the incident had taken place. I found everything as above, and about fifty rifles and eleven cases of ammunition lying on the beach. I examined the Greek servant who had been killed, and found him lying on the beach shot through the head. There were no other marks on his body, and death must have been instantaneous. Shortly afterwards the Kaïmakam arrived, and I asked him if he had taken any steps to send the Thasos steamer after the boat. He replied that he had, and the steamer left shortly afterwards, but was unable to overtake the sailing-boat, which had got a very long start. We then searched the buildings, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, but only found five revolvers and a few papers, one of which, however, stated that the proprietors of the coffee-houses 2 and 3 belonged to the Greek Committee of Cavalla. The ice factory was apparently the property of a Greek subject, and accordingly the Kaïmakam sent for the Greek Consul before entering it. After waiting for over three hours a dragoman arrived and offered as an excuse that he had taken a purgative the night before. He also suggested that we should wait for the owner of the factory to arrive, but shortly afterwards opened the door, and asked me to enter. I found an oil lamp burning beside an old corn bin; inside the bin were eighty rifles with some hay alongside ready to cover them up.

I attach a description of the locality and of the rifles; 75 per cent. of the latter were brand new and had never been used before.

I may add that I was very much struck by the conduct of Yuzbashi Shukri Effendi and his men, which was in every way exemplary.

(Signed) G. C. HAMILTON, *Yuzbashi.*

Inclosure 4 in No 112.

Major Martyn to Captain Anley.

Kaïmakam Anley, *Cavalla, April* 10, 1905.

I FORWARD herewith a full report by Yuzbashi Hamilton on the recent capture of rifles at Cavalla.

Owing to certain rumours having come to the notice of the gendarmerie on Sunday, the 2nd instant, *re* probable attempts being made to land rifles in the Pravishta and Cavalla Kazas, Yuzbashi Hamilton has given instructions for special patrols to watch the coast line between Orfano and Cavalla.

(Signed) A. MARTYN, *Kaïmakam,*
Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie.

No. 113.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 17, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on the presence of a band of Komitajis at Radovishta and the burning of houses by order of the Turkish authorities in that place, and the subsequent escape of the band.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Vice-Consul Satow to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Uskub, April* 10, 1905.

I BEG to report that the following occurrence has taken place at the town of Radovishta:—

The presence of a band of Komitajis in the town was reported to the authorities, who took measures to surround the house in which they were. Firing was kept up all day, but, owing to the position in which the house stood, it was fruitless.

The Kaïmakam then telegraphed to the Vali, requesting permission to burn the house, as he was afraid that the Komitajis would take advantage of the darkness to escape.

This permission was refused on the ground that other houses would be endangered, and orders were given to continue the blockade and await reinforcements from Ishtib.

In the meantime, the Kaïmakam telegraphed to the Inspector-General, who authorized him to burn the house.

The net result of the operations was that eight houses were burnt, two women and a child, of whom one woman and a child were Moslems, were killed by stray bullets, and the band escaped unscathed.

This incident, besides showing the general incapacity of the Turkish authorities to manage such affairs, brings into relief the impossible position in which the Vali finds himself owing to the system by which the Inspector-General can countermand his orders without his being aware of the fact.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 114.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of two despatches from Mr. McGregor on the subject of the Patriarchist outrages in Macedonia, and giving further details which he has obtained from Colonel Albera and the Austrian and Russian Consuls, respecting the massacre of the inhabitants of the village of Zagorichani by a Greek band.

As your Lordship will perceive, the authorities, although warned of the danger, did nothing to protect the unfortunate villagers, and would seem even to have misled them by false or mistaken assurances.

The total number of unburied corpses inspected by the Colonel and the two Consuls was sixty-two, including six women and two children, and it appears that the massacre would have been even more extensive had it not been for the prompt assistance brought by a lieutenant of gendarmerie, an ex-pupil of the gendarmerie school at Salonica.

I have already reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 17th instant that I had called the attention of the Foreign Minister to the deplorable leniency shown by the authorities in dealing with the Patriarchist bands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, April* 11, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a list of the more serious outrages brought to my notice as having occurred in the vilayet since the 25th ultimo.

The number of political murders ascertained to have been committed by Bulgarians is two, whereas the number for which the Greeks are responsible is eleven, and, had it not been for bad marksmanship, the figure would probably have been increased by two. I ought to add that the destruction of the Greek Monastery of Zikovishta was undoubtedly an act of vengeance for the treachery of the Prior, who, a short time ago, enticed a Bulgarian band into the monastery, where they were surprised by a Greek band, and lost several of their comrades before effecting an escape.

I have not attempted to chronicle the various affrays which are of almost daily occurrence at Monastir, but I should like to point out that in every case the aggressors have been Patriarchists, and that only in two instances has the police interfered. A glaring example of the utter inefficiency of the police occurred the other day when a shooting affray between Patriarchists took place in a house opposite the Consulate, and within twenty paces of the nearest picket, without any arrest being made.

I can only explain the indifference of the authorities on the assumption that the present policy of the Greeks is viewed with favour as being likely to goad the Bulgarians into reprisals, and thus afford the Turks a pretext for the usual repressive measures. Fortunately, the Bulgarians have hitherto maintained a relatively passive attitude, in which the Bulgarian Commercial Agent tells me he has instructions to encourage them as far as lies in his power, but the Committee has within the last fortnight addressed a Circular to the Consuls of the Great Powers here informing them that the present passive attitude of the Bulgarians cannot continue indefinitely, and it is, indeed, hardly possible to suppose that the recent attack on M. Khristoff and the butchery at Zagorichani, reported in my immediately preceding despatch, will be allowed to remain unavenged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, April* 12, 1905.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that I have now obtained from Colonel Albera and the Austrian and Russian Consuls the following details regarding the massacre at Zagorichani, whence these gentlemen returned yesterday evening:—

From the information supplied to me by Colonel Albera and Lieutenant Gastoldi, the Italian officer resident at Florina, it appears that for the last month the inhabitants of Zagorichani and the surrounding villages had apprehended the imminence of an attack by the Greeks who were known to be concentrating in the almost inaccessible districts of Lehovo and Belkamen, and, not only had the peasants appealed to the authorities for protection, both verbally and in writing, but Lieutenant Gastoldi had personally warned the Kaïmakam of Florina of the impending danger. The authorities, however, remained passive, confining themselves to sending a small detachment a few days ago to visit Zagorichani, when the officer in command informed the villagers that there was no cause for alarm and that, if a body of men should approach the village with the sound of trumpets, they might know that it was a Turkish detachment sent for their protection.

The peasants seem to have been tranquillized by these assurances, for when, at 5 A.M. on Friday, the 7th instant, the sound of a trumpet was heard on the outskirts of the village, no alarm was apparently felt, and it was not until a band of 300 men, composed principally of Patriarchists from Sreberno, Blatsi, Kastoria, and Kozani, and led by three individuals in Greek uniform, began to surround the village that the situation was understood. During the hour and a-half which ensued the defenceless inhabitants were the prey of the Greek band, who put their victims to death with every circumstance of ferocity, using indiscriminately rifles, bayonets, hatchets, and dynamite. In the meantime, however, a messenger had been sent to Vlaho-Klissoura for assistance, and the firing had attracted the attention of a lieutenant of gendarmerie —an ex-pupil of the gendarmerie school at Salonica—who, on his own initiative, immediately took command of a detachment of forty soldiers stationed at the neighbouring village of Koumanichevo, where he happened to be staying, and proceeded hotfoot to Zagorichani in time to stop the massacre, being rejoined two or three hours later by fifty men from Klissoura. The band thereupon retired towards its head-quarters in the Lehovo mountains, carrying off with it some twenty-five prisoners, and the pursuit seems to have been soon abandoned in view of the difficult nature of the country.

The total number of unburied corpses inspected by the Colonel and the two Consuls was sixty-two, including those of six women and two children, the latter having been first bayonetted and then ripped up; and in one instance it was found that an entire family had been destroyed by dynamite bombs of a primitive kind introduced through holes made in the walls of their hut. Besides burning fourteen houses and as many hay-sheds, the Greeks had wantonly slaughtered numbers of cattle, and the comparatively small number of wounded—about half-a-dozen—bore witness to the thorough manner in which the work of butchery had been carried on during the brief space of an hour and a-half. There can, indeed, be little doubt that, but for the timely and praiseworthy initiative of the lieutenant of gendarmerie, whose merits are warmly acknowledged, not only by Colonel Albera and Austrian and Russian Consuls, but also by the villagers, a much larger proportion of the 2,000 inhabitants of Zagorichani would have perished.

In the opinion of the Italian officers, who have exceptional opportunities of becoming acquainted with the condition of these regions, the massacre had been carefully planned for some time previously, and was countenanced, at least indirectly, by the Kaïmakams and Greek Metropolitans of Kastoria and Florina, the latter of whom, not content, like his brother of Monastir, with public vituperation of the Bulgarians in his Sunday sermons for the last two months, has not scrupled to express to Lieutenant Gastoldi the opinion that all Bulgarians, as well as their protectors, should be slaughtered, while the Metropolitan of Kastoria is said to have personally threatened various Exarchist villages with destruction by the Greek bands in the event of their not renouncing the Bulgarian schism.

I ought also to point out a circumstance notably differentiating the massacre at Zagorichani from the outrages hitherto committed by Exarchists against Patriarchists,

viz., that, whereas the Bulgarian Committee has almost invariably selected its victims amongst persons known or suspected to have been guilty of denunciation, the Greeks appear to have been animated by no other motive than a desire to murder as many Exarchists as possible.

It is greatly to be desired that the seriousness of the situation should at last be borne in upon the authorities specially entrusted with the task of pacifying the country; but I regret to observe that, while, according to information supplied to me by the Italian gendarmerie officers, the Patriarchists in the Kastoria and Florina districts are, in contradistinction to the Exarchists, allowed to carry arms with impunity, the said authorities have so far confined their activity to fruitless perquisitions in Bulgarian villages, whence I receive numerous reports of the excesses committed by the troops and the Bashi-Bozouks.

As an instance, I may mention that a few days ago I called the attention of the Vali to the fact that a detachment of troops, accompanied by an amnestied brigand and murderer called Moustafa of Voshtarani, had bastinadoed eight inhabitants of Sovich (Kaza of Florina), including the Bekji; but his Excellency, who must be quite aware that the said Moustafa has for months been terrorizing the villages of that district with the aid of eight or ten soldiers, who form, so to speak, his band, merely replied that the services of such persons were found necessary as guides during these operations.

To return to the massacre forming the subject of this despatch, my Austrian and Russian colleagues inform me that the Imperial Procureur told them at Zagorichani that he had already a list of 150 persons recognized by the villagers as having formed part of the Greek band.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

List of Crimes committed in the Monastir Vilayet since March 25, 1905.

Le 25 *Mars.*—A Khroupista (Caza de Kastoria) les Grecs ont attaqué un notable Bulgare, qui a pu s'échapper, mais dont la fille a été tuée par un coup de fusil.

Le 27 *Mars.*—A Chestéovo (Caza de Kastoria) les Grecs ont tué le Moukhtar du village Yanni (Bulgare Exarchiste). Ils ont aussi tué Ivan Damianoff, maître d'école Bulgare à Bulgaroblatsi.

Le 1er *Avril.*—A Ezerets (village à 4 heures de Kastoria) les Grecs ont tué huit Bulgares.

Le 2 *Avril.*—Le monastère Grec de Zikovista, dans le Caza de Grevena, fut incendié par des Bulgares et on affirme que deux personnes ont péri.

Le 3 *Avril.*—Une bande Bulgare, entrée dans le village de Joujeltsi (à 2 heures de Kastoria), a brûlé la maison du prêtre Patriarchiste et a tué son fils.

Le lendemain matin le cadavre du prêtre a été trouvé sur la route à une demi-heure de Kastoria.

Le 7 *Avril.*—Un notable Bulgare de Monastir nommé Lasare Ghiorghieff a été attaqué à coups de revolver au moment où il se rendait à l'église.

Un jeune Patriarchiste fut arrêté par la police, qui prétend ne pas avoir trouvé d'arme sur lui.

(Translation.)

March 25.—At Khroupista (Kaza of Kastoria) the Greeks attacked a Bulgarian notable, who succeeded in escaping, but whose daughter was shot.

March 27.—At Chestéovo (Kaza of Kastoria), the Greeks killed the Moukhtar of the village, Yanni (Bulgarian Exarchist). They also killed Ivan Damianoff, Bulgarian schoolmaster at Bulgaroblatsi.

April 1.—At Ezerets (village situated at 4 hours from Kastoria) the Greeks killed eight Bulgarians.

April 2.—The Greek monastery of Zikovista, in the Kaza of Grevena, was set on fire by the Bulgarians, and it is stated that two persons perished.

April 3.—A Bulgarian band having entered the village of Joujeltsi (2 hours from Kastoria), burnt the house of the Patriarchist priest and killed his son.

On the following day the body of the priest was found on the road at a spot situated half-an-hour from Kastoria.

April 7.—A Bulgarian notable of Monastir named Lasare Ghiorghieff was attacked with revolvers as he was going to church.

A young Patriarchist was arrested by the police, who pretend that no arms were found on him.

No. 115.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the British Adjoint in Macedonia, inclosing copy of a letter which he has addressed to General Degiorgis Pasha, calling his Excellency's attention to the instructions which have been given to the subordinate Turkish officers in the gendarmerie, to the effect that the foreign officers have no concern in the administration of prisons, and should not be allowed to enter them. Colonel Fairholme calls on General Degiorgis to get explicit instructions issued by the Inspector-General that the powers of the foreign gendarmerie officers are not to be curtailed.

Until I learn the result of the steps which General Degiorgis may take in consequence of Colonel Fairholme's letter, I do not propose to take any action here, but I have reason to believe that the instructions from the Porte which were the cause of Colonel Fairholme's complaint are due to representations made as to the differential treatment shown to the British officers in the Drama section as compared to the foreign officers in other districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Colonel Fairholme to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Drama, April* 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, the inclosed copy of a communication which I have this day addressed to General Degiorgis.

There is some reason to believe that the restrictive instructions issued by the Turkish authorities, which have given rise to my letter, are directed not so much against the activity of the British officers in the Drama district as against the possible interference of foreign officers in those districts where racial questions are more acute, and where there are a number of political prisoners, notably Bulgarians, confined in the prisons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Colonel Fairholme to General Degiorgis.

Votre Excellence, *Drama, le* 15 *Avril,* 1905.

JE regrette d'avoir à signaler que dans quelques cazas de ce sandjiak les officiers Anglais sous mes ordres viennent de rencontrer une certaine opposition nouvelle de la part du personnel Ottoman, qui affirme agir selon les ordres donnés par autorité supérieure.

Ainsi, quoique jusqu'à présent les officiers Anglais aient pu visiter les prisons pour y contrôler la manière dont le service y est exécuté par la gendarmerie, il paraît qu'un ordre vient d'être circulé disant que les officiers étrangers n'ont rien à faire avec les prisons et ne doivent pas y entrer.

Aussi, tandis que jusqu'à présent les officiers Ottomans de gendarmerie à Cavalla, Sarichaban et Pravishta ont envoyé un rapport journalier à l'officier Anglais à Cavalla signalant les ordres de toute nature qu'ils avaient reçus, tant des autorités civiles que

du commandement du bataillon, ainsi que tous les cas judiciaires et autres informations intéressant la gendarmerie, rapport très nécessaire pour le contrôle du service, il paraît que maintenant les autorités civiles ont prescrit à ces officiers de se borner dans leurs rapports aux détails concernant seulement la réorganisation de la gendarmerie.

Il n'y a pas lieu de croire qu'il y ait eu contre les officiers étrangers la moindre mauvaise volonté de la part des officiers subalternes de la gendarmerie, mais ceux-ci sont dans une position très difficile, ne sachant à qui obéir.

Done, afin d'éviter toute équivoque à ce sujet, j'ai l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien insister auprès de l'Inspecteur-Général que des ordres soient donnés par son Excellence au commandement et à tous les officiers du bataillon de gendarmerie de Drama, et aussi à son Excellence le Mutessarif et aux Caïmacans des cinq cazas, ne laissant aucun doute sur l'étendue des fonctions des officiers étrangers dont, selon la note de Mürzsteg, le mandat comprend non seulement l'organisation et l'instruction, mais aussi le contrôle de la gendarmerie.

Je tiens surtout à ce que l'Inspecteur-Général admette et fasse comprendre à tous les employés Ottomans les deux points suivants, et je prie votre Excellence de me faire parvenir une copie des ordres que son Excellence voudrait leur envoyer :—

1. Que du moment qu'un officier Ottoman de la gendarmerie s'occupe officiellement d'une affaire quelconque, ou est chargé, par n'importe quelle autorité, d'un service quelconque ou apprend n'importe quel fait qui l'intéresse dans sa capacité d'officier de gendarmerie, cette affaire, ce service, ou cette information entre dans le ressort de contrôle de l'officier étranger, et doit par conséquent lui être communiqué sur sa demande.

Ainsi un officier Ottoman de gendarmerie ne pourra jamais s'excuser d'avoir caché à l'officier étranger quelque affaire dont il a connaissance officielle, en disant que cette affaire n'est pas du ressort de la gendarmerie.

2. Il est dans la compétence de l'officier étranger de circuler partout où quelqu'un appartenant au personnel de l'unité de gendarmerie auprès duquel il se trouve, fait son service, afin de contrôler la manière dont ce service est exécuté.

Ainsi dans celles des prisons où il y a des employés civils comme secrétaires et gardiens, et où la gendarmerie n'a qu'à veiller à la sûreté des prisonniers, l'officier étranger doit être admis à la prison pour inspecter ce service de sûreté et peut même s'assurer que le nombre de prisonniers répond au chiffre inscrit sur le document qui est aux mains du sous-officier de gendarmerie dans la prison.

Mais aux prisons où il n'y a pas de personnel civil et où la gendarmerie elle-même est chargée des fonctions du secrétaire de prison et du geôlier, l'officier étranger doit être admis pour contrôler, non seulement le service de sûreté, mais encore la direction entière de la prison.

Je crois que votre Excellence sera d'accord avec moi qu'il faut absolument maintenir les pouvoirs, déjà assez restreints, qui nous ont été accordés dans notre mandat.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) W. E. FAIRHOLME.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *Drama, April* 15, 1905.

I REGRET to have to point out that in some kazas of this sanjak the British officers under my orders have just met with a new form of opposition on the part of the Ottoman personnel, who stated that they were acting under orders given by a superior authority.

Thus, although, until now, British officers have been able to visit prisons to control the manner in which the gendarmerie fulfil their duties there, it appears that an order has just been circulated, stating that the foreign officers have nothing to do with the prisons, and should not enter them.

Also, while, until now, the Ottoman Gendarmerie officers at Cavalla, Sarichaban, and Pravishta have been sending daily reports to the English officer at Cavalla stating the orders of every kind received by them from the commander of the battalion as well as from civil authorities, besides all the judicial cases and other information in which the gendarmerie is interested, very necessary reports for the control of the service, it

appears that now the civil authorities have instructed these officers to limit themselves in their reports to details concerning only the reorganization of the gendarmerie.

There is no reason to believe that there has been any display of ill-will towards the foreign officers on the part of the subordinate gendarmerie officers, but the latter are placed in a very difficult position, not knowing whom to obey.

Therefore, in order to avoid any doubt on this subject, I have the honour to request your Excellency kindly to urge the Inspector-General to issue orders to the Commanding Officer, and to all the officers of the gendarmerie battalion at Drama, and also to his Excellency the Mutessarif, and to the Kaïmakams of the five kazas, leaving no doubt as to the scope of the functions of the foreign officers, whose commission, in accordance with the Mürzsteg note, includes not only the organization and instruction, but also the control of the gendarmerie.

I am especially anxious that the Inspector-General should admit, and give all the Ottoman employés to understand, the following two points, and I request your Excellency to have a copy of the orders that his Excellency may send them transmitted to me:—

1. That when an Ottoman gendarmerie officer deals with any case officially, or is intrusted with any duty by any authority, or learns any fact which interests him in his capacity of gendarmerie officer, that case, that duty, or that information enters into the foreign officers' sphere of control, and should consequently be communicated to him on request.

Thus an Ottoman gendarmerie officer will never be able to excuse himself for concealing from a foreign officer any case of which he is officially informed by saying that it is outside the province of the gendarmerie.

2. A foreign officer is entitled to go everywhere where any one belonging to the personnel of the gendarmerie unit to which he is attached is performing his duties, in order to control the manner in which those duties are executed.

Thus in those prisons where there are civil employés as secretaries and gaolers, and where the gendarmerie only have to see to the custody of prisoners, the foreign officer should be admitted to the prison to inspect that guard duty, and may even satisfy himself that the number of prisoners corresponds with the figures inscribed on the document in the hands of the subordinate gendarmerie officer at the prison.

But at prisons where there is no civil personnel, and where the gendarmerie themselves are intrusted with the duties of the prison secretary and gaoler, the foreign officer should be admitted to control not only the guard duty, but also the whole direction of the prison.

I think your Excellency will concur with me that the powers, already rather limited, which have been granted to us in our mandate, must certainly be maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME.

No. 116.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 19, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the British Adjoint, giving a report on the satisfactory condition in which he found the Drama secteur on his return from leave of absence, both as regards the general situation and the progress made by the gendarmerie under British supervision. At the same time Colonel Fairholme draws attention to the financial difficulties with which General Degiorgis has to contend, and I accordingly requested His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica to confer with the Civil Agents on the subject, and I now transmit copy of his despatch explaining how the matter stands. As I regard any violation of the financial arrangements for the reorganization of the gendarmerie with the greatest anxiety, inasmuch as it would endanger the stability of the whole scheme, I have made earnest representations to the Grand Vizier against the diversion for any other than gendarmerie purposes of any part of the special fund of £T. 255,000 appropriated, by the Sultan's express orders, to the service of this reorganization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Colonel Fairholme to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Drama, March* 19, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that, on returning from leave of absence, I have found the situation here satisfactory, both as regards the general condition of the sanjak and the progress made by the gendarmerie under the supervision of the British officers.

General Condition of District.—The district generally is perfectly quiet, and the inhabitants are, on the whole, prosperous and industrious.

In the few villages inhabited by Bulgarian-speaking peasants the ill-feeling between the Exarchist and Patriarchist sections, kept alive, I firmly believe, mainly by outside influences working through the agency of the priests and schoolmasters, still smoulders, and it recently found vent at Visochan in an incident which might have proved serious but for the conduct of the gendarmerie and, what is worthy of note, of the Mahommedan population. I inclose a report by Lieutenant-Colonel Anley on the subject. There was recently an alarm, which, however, proved false, of a descent of Komitajis, coming from across the Bulgarian frontier, upon the village of Volak, in this district. I inclose a report by Captain Smyly on the steps which were taken to deal with it, which may prove of interest to your Excellency, as illustrating the relations established between the Ottoman authorities, civil and military, and the British officers in connection with the execution of such measures.

Gendarmerie.—In the gendarmerie the introduction of a new element, in the shape of superior and better educated officers from the army, is already producing an excellent effect, and the whole tone of the force is being raised in consequence.

Officers.—The new officers appointed to the Drama battalion got on very well with the British officers, whose guidance they are accepting readily. They contrast very favourably in appearance, bearing, and conduct, not only with the old gendarmerie officers, but also with the officers of the army quartered in this town.

A few of the best of the old gendarmerie officers have been temporarily retained out of consideration for past services, but they will have before long to be transferred elsewhere, as illiterate officers can have no place in the new gendarmerie.

Non-commissioned Officers and Gendarmes.—Some unavoidable but temporary inconvenience is being caused by the shortage in gendarmes due to the inability of the new gendarmerie schools at Salonica to turn out, so soon after their first institution, sufficient properly trained non-commissioned officers and gendarmes to fill the numerous vacancies caused by the elimination of bad characters and of the physically or intellectually unfit, a process which has been going on steadily ever since our arrival nearly a year ago.

All recruiting on the old system had been stopped in March 1904.

The battalions are considerably under strength in consequence, and this is delaying the complete introduction of the new system; progress is, however, being made in instruction and patrolling is being carried on diligently.

The first batch of young recruits from the school joined the battalion on the 7th January last, and although their course of training had been curtailed, owing to the above consideration, they promise well. Their education is being carefully continued with the battalion under specially selected officers. A second batch is expected shortly.

The Recruits' School at Salonica.—While at Salonica last week I made a minute inspection of the recruits' school and was greatly struck with the progress made since my last visit soon after it was opened.

A rifle range, on the system adopted in the British army, has recently been constructed, the first, I believe, of its kind in the Ottoman Empire, and practical instruction in musketry has been added to the other subjects taught.

Good progress was being made in reading and writing, and some of the "élèves-gendarmes" showed remarkable intelligence.

Altogether, this establishment reflects great credit on Major Bonham and on the Turkish officers who assist him to conduct it.

The smarter bearing of the new element is not without influence on the older gendarmes in the companies, and some of these are even learning to read and write of their own accord.

On several recent occasions good work performed by gendarmes of the Drama

battalion has earned the special commendation of General Degiorgis, and in one instance, that of a gendarme who followed up a malefactor through the neighbouring Sanjak of Serres and finally captured him near Salonica, a medal has been awarded.

New British Officer.—Major Martyn, West Kent Regiment, the additional British officer sent by His Majesty's Government, has taken up his duties. He was well received by the authorities as soon as his recognition by the Ottoman Government had been announced. I am employing him at Cavalla, where he will supervise the gendarmerie in the Kazas of Cavalla, Pravishta, and Sarichaban. Captain Hamilton, who has done good work in those districts, remains to assist him.

Finance.—Amongst the difficulties with which General Degiorgis has to contend, those connected with finance are the greatest, and I found his Excellency very anxious on the subject. He has drawn up his Gendarmerie Budget for 1905, and finds that the sum guaranteed to the Imperial Ottoman Bank last year (if I remember right £T. 255,000), after deducting the Police Budget and the pay of those portions of the gendarmerie of the three vilayets which are not included in our reorganization, will not quite suffice to pay the officers, native and foreign, and the men of the force being reorganized, and leaves not a penny over for all other expenses, such as barrack accommodation, repairs to buildings, cost of arms and ammunition, and equipment, travelling expenses, fuel and light for offices, stationery, purchase of clothing, expenses in connection with the gendarmerie schools at Salonica, &c.

Money for these purposes has to be extracted from the Inspector-General's Budget, and General Degiorgis is met by the invariable reply that there are no funds available.

This want of money is seriously retarding the progress of the reorganization, and it is very desirable that pressure should be put upon the Ottoman Government to provide the further sums most urgently required.

Amongst other items is one of £T. 12,000 required, once for all, for the construction of new "karakols" or guard-houses, which form an essential feature in the reorganization. As this sum cannot be provided from the Budget, either a special contribution will have to be levied on the population for the purpose, an imposition which they can ill afford, or the construction of the greater part of these "karakols" will have to be indefinitely postponed, to the great detriment of the gendarmerie service.

I inclose a note by Major Stanley Clarke, showing the difference between the gendarmerie system being introduced by General Degiorgis and that hitherto in force in the Ottoman Empire, from which the importance of these "karakols" will be seen.

Turkish Civil Authorities.—The relations between the British officers and the Turkish civil authorities are good. His Excellency Zia Pasha, Mutessarif of Drama, is always ready to discuss matters with me in the friendliest manner, and appears anxious to promote the welfare of all sections of the population in his sanjak.

Turkish Army Officers.—The Turkish Colonel commanding the troops in this sanjak, with whom I am on excellent terms, has given numerous proofs of his friendly disposition towards the British officers.

The junior Turkish army officers, with few exceptions, keep aloof, and there is evidently considerable jealousy on their part, caused, I think, mainly by the higher and regularly issued pay granted to the officers of the new gendarmerie, their superior uniform, and generally the attention which has been bestowed upon them, but partly, no doubt, from a very natural dislike of foreign interference.

I had occasion some time ago to report the bad behaviour of a Turkish officer of the army, not connected with the gendarmerie, against whom there were numerous complaints in the town. He was promptly transferred elsewhere by direction of his Excellency Hilmi Pasha.

Police.—As I have already reported, the condition of the police in the towns is most unsatisfactory, and will remain so until that force also is brought under effective foreign control. I say effective, because, nominally, the police in the Salonica Vilayet is under the supervision of a Belgian officer, Major Bureau Bey, who, with the best intentions, has been able to effect little or no improvement, owing, I fear, to utter lack of support on the part of the Turkish authorities.

I have on various occasions succeeded in getting Police Commissaries removed for gross misconduct, but the offenders are only transferred elsewhere, sometimes even to higher posts, and are replaced by others in no way better.

The Police Service is, however, so intimately connected with the Civil Administration that it would be difficult to improve the former unless some control were also established over the latter.

Prisons.—The prison system is in great need of reform. The present building at Drama, which has to accommodate prisoners from the whole of the sanjak, besides being far too small, is quite unsuitable in other respects.

At the present moment 137 inmates, some undergoing long sentences for murder or other crimes, some awaiting trial for the same, some tried but not yet sentenced, others undergoing short sentences for insignificant offences or awaiting trial for the same, are huddled, apparently quite promiscuously, into seven rooms only 7 ft. 4 in. high, the average area of which is 18 feet square. This gives 16 square feet of floor space for each inmate. I am told there were lately over 200 inmates, which would allow an average of 11 square feet only.

During the daytime the prisoners have access to two small narrow courtyards, and they all have apparently the free run of the whole premises.

The prison is so insecure that three sentries, found by the gendarmerie, have to be posted by day and night to prevent the escape of prisoners.

No work whatever is done by the prisoners, not even by the convicts, but the latter wear a chain on one leg.

The prisoners at night are locked into their rooms, in which a hole in the wooden floor does duty as urinal. The state of the atmosphere in the morning, due to this and to the overcrowding, may be imagined.

I spoke to Hilmi Pasha, and his Excellency said that a new prison for Drama is down in this year's Estimates. I fear, however, that there is little prospect of its being really taken in hand, unless pressure is applied from outside.

I may add that unfortunately the prisons are not recognized as being under the supervision of the foreign gendarmerie officers, although in this sanjak the British officers have constantly visited them, with good results as regards cleanliness, &c.

The Procureur-Général of Salonica recently sent a circular to the civil authorities reminding them that the gendarmerie and foreign officers had nothing to do with the prisons or prisoners, except to insure their safe custody, and that the foreign officers have not the right to inquire into any matter connected with the prisoners or their punishments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Report by Major Anley on the Disturbances which took place at Visocan in January 1905.

AT midday on the 7th January we were informed that there had been some quarrelling at Visocan between the Exarchist and Patriarchist factions owing to the Exarchists having tried to enter the church allotted to the Patriarchists.

A Turkish gendarmerie officer with four mounted gendarmes was at once dispatched from Drama to investigate the occurrence.

It was found that there had been merely some hustling, but as the people still seemed in an excited state, the officer left the mounted gendarmes at Visocan under the command of a sergeant.

On the following morning at about midday the Exarchists again tried to enter the Patriarchist church, and the cavass of the Patriarchist Metropolitan of Drama (who had arrived in the village that morning) is reported to have struck the Exarchist priest with a clubbed rifle.

Some fighting then commenced, and a few shots were fired without doing any damage, though a good many slight wounds were inflicted with sticks and stones, &c.

The gendarmes, not being sufficiently numerous to stop the fighting, called on some of the Turkish population of the village to assist them, and by their united efforts the Exarchists and Patriarchists were eventually separated.

On the 9th January I personally visited the village, and found that the Turkish Captain had arrested six Exarchists and the Patriarchist cavass in connection with the second disturbance. Beyond a good many of the villagers having slight wounds, there appeared to be no serious consequences. As both the Patriarchist and Exarchist villagers praised the behaviour of the Turks, I spoke to the Turkish Headman of the village and praised his conduct.

I gave both the Patriarchists and Exarchists to understand that if either party

reopened the quarrel they would be held to blame by the British officers, and they both promised to keep the peace.

On the 11th January, as the village appeared quiet, the gendarmes were withdrawn.

On the 22nd January the Patriarchist cavass was awarded fifteen days' imprisonment and the six Exarchists from one and a-half to two months' imprisonment before the Drama Tribunal.

I am strongly of opinion that in these mixed villages the population, when left to themselves, are quite ready and willing to live peaceably together. Disturbances appear to be generally due to the intrigues of the Christian priests or the Turkish officials.

(Signed) F. G. ANLEY.

Drama, January 18, 1905.

Inclosure 3 in No. 116.

Report by Captain Smyly.

Sir, *Drama, March* 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 5th March, 1905, I received information through the gendarmerie to the effect that a band of Komitajis, about fifty strong, having crossed the Bulgarian frontier at Yeni-Mahalla village, had passed through Osikova, Baldova, and Belotintsi villages in the Nevrokop Kaza, and were making for Volak in the Drama Kaza.

Fourteen gendarmes under Mulazim Evel Nadin Effendi and fifteen soldiers (Nizam) under Mulasin Evel Ali Effendi of the Drama battalion were immediately dispatched from here to Presotchan, where they halted for the night, and where I joined them at about 9 P.M.

At 3·30 A.M. on the 6th we paraded, being reinforced by fifteen Nizamieh from the military detachment at Presotchan, the force thus numbering in all two officers and forty-four men.

When close to Volak a message was sent to the detachment there (one sergeant and fifteen men of the Nizam) to co-operate on the north side of the village, and patrol was also sent out to watch the Volak–Gerejek road. The remainder of the force then proceeded to surround the village.

On entering the village the closest inquiries were made, and some houses were searched, but nothing appeared to have been seen or heard of a band by the villagers beyond a rumour that one had crossed the Bulgarian frontier.

Reports from Gerejek being satisfactory, the gendarmerie officer, who commanded the expedition throughout, decided to march back along the border between the Kazas of Drama and Nevrokop.

The behaviour of the troops was excellent throughout; they were always well in hand and marched well.

I was treated with the greatest courtesy, and my opinion and advice were asked on all points.

The inhabitants of Volak had no complaints to make as to the behaviour of the troops quartered there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. J. SMYLY, *Yuzbashi.*

To Kaïmakam F. G. Anley.

(2.)

To the British Staff Officer.

Forwarded. Volak is about 25 miles north-east of Drama, and is permanently occupied by one sergeant and fifteen men of the Nizam.

(Signed) F. G. ANLEY.

Drama, March 15, 1905.

Inclosure 4 in No. 116.

Comparison of the Gendarmerie System being introduced by General Degiorgis with the former Turkish methods.

APART from the general improvements now being introduced in the Ottoman gendarmerie, such as the elimination of the bad elements, the introduction of a superior and better educated class of officers and of non-commissioned officers and men, the provision of adequate and regularly issued pay, of a smarter uniform and a more modern armament, as well as the institution of training schools, the following comparison will show the main points in which the new system differs from the old:—

Hitherto the gendarmerie was distributed without reference to the requirements of the country generally. Gendarmes were either kept collected at the head-quarters of the various political divisions or posted in detachments of two or more men in guard-houses ("karakols"), which were usually situated on main roads, or at the entrances to towns.

Those at head-quarters, besides performing a number of duties not properly connected with gendarmerie work, were only sent out when a particular service was required to be performed.

Those in the outlying guard-houses, who were left unvisited by an officer or superior for many months together, did nothing, and hardly left the "karakol" unless sent for.

Villages not situated on the main roads were only visited by gendarmes when some special necessity arose, and the greater part of the country was not visited at all, patrolling being practically non-existent.

There was no sense of general responsibility either as regards the discipline of the force or as regards law and order. The members of the force only considered themselves responsible for the performance of any particular duty for which they might have been detailed.

The old and the new system may perhaps best be described as respectively passive and active.

Under the new system the whole country is divided up like a net, of which each mesh is represented by the area assigned to a single "poste." The "poste" is the unit of the new gendarmerie, and consists of four or more men commanded by a sergeant and quartered in a guard-house centrally situated. Each "poste" is responsible for law and order in the area allotted to it, and from it patrols, consisting invariably of two or more gendarmes, are constantly on the move, not only along the main roads, but periodically visiting every locality in the area.

These patrols are timed to meet patrols from neighbouring "postes" at certain fixed points, thus not only establishing a mutual check, but enabling documents, prisoners, &c., as well as information regarding the state of the district or movements of suspected persons or criminals, to be exchanged or passed on. All such matters and all duties performed are entered on special forms kept by the commander of the "poste," the counter-signature of the local authorities, with their observations, if necessary, being obtained by the senior gendarme whenever a patrol proceeds to a village.

A certain number of "postes" form a section. Each section is commanded by a gendarmerie Lieutenant, whose duty it is to frequently visit each of his "postes," for the efficiency of which he is entirely responsible.

Several sections form a company, commanded by a Captain, and a number of companies, varying according to the size of the sanjak, form a battalion.

Under the old system a considerable proportion of the force has been employed in duties which do not properly belong to the gendarmerie at all, such as personal orderlies to civil officials of all ranks, messengers to law Courts, prison warders, sentries posted over Government offices and buildings, and watchmen to guard railway stations and even goods sheds.

General Degiorgis is taking steps to effect a gradual change in this respect, and hopes ultimately to get all such duties withdrawn from the gendarmerie.

A first step has been taken in this direction by separating all the members of the gendarmerie who have had to remain so employed into a special category, called the second or sedentary class. This class is made up by the gendarmes least suited for active service or duties. They do not receive the full increase of pay granted to the first class, and they retain the old uniform. It is intended ultimately to detach them entirely from the new gendarmerie and to hand them over to the departments in which they are employed.

(Signed) A. E. STANLEY CLARKE, *Bimbashi.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 116.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, April* 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 30th ultimo transmitting an extract from a despatch from Colonel Fairholme relating to the difficulties experienced by General Degiorgis in regard to the finances of the reorganized gendarmerie.

In obedience to your Excellency's instructions, I addressed myself to the Civil Agents for the purpose of ascertaining their views on the question whether the police expenses could be legitimately included in the sum guaranteed to the Imperial Ottoman Bank to meet the expenses of gendarmerie reorganization. The Civil Agents informed me that they had not given the matter full consideration, but that they would confer on the subject and inform me of the result.

On the 10th instant, Mr. Petraïew, the assistant to the Russian Civil Agent, called upon me, and furnished the following explanations, which I have had confirmed and amplified to-day by Hilmi Pasha himself: Last year the Turkish Government had guaranteed to the Ottoman Bank a sum of £T. 255,000 for the purpose of the reorganization scheme, but it was subsequently discovered that this was intended to include the requirements of the police force, estimated at £T. 28,590·95. General Degiorgis had consequently been obliged to frame his Estimates for the current financial year 1321 on the reduced sum of £T. 226,409·05, which was found insufficient for his purposes, especially in view of the initial expenses, which included an item of £T. 12,000 for the construction of guard-houses. The actual sum figuring in the new Budget for gendarmerie expenses is £T. 229,087·75, the amount of £T. 2,678·70 in excess of the guaranteed sum being required for the payment of officers placed on the unattached list on half-pay as inefficient. After consultation with the "Adjoints" the General had presented to Hilmi Pasha Supplementary Estimates to the extent of £T. 80,000, which the Inspector-General considered excessive. This proposal was withdrawn, and a reduced Supplementary Estimate of £T. 15,000 was substituted for it, which Hilmi Pasha accepted, and hopes to cover from (*a*) economies in the last Budget, £T. 8,000; (*b*) savings effected by the reduction of certain companies in the kazas which lie outside the new organization, £T. 4,000; and (*c*) sundry minor savings, £T. 3,000. No provision, however, has been made for the salaries of the newly engaged foreign officers, amounting to £T. 9,700, for which an application will have to be made to the Porte.

Colonel Fairholme, who has just left Salonica for Drama, after a short visit during which he was in constant communication with General Degiorgis on this and other gendarmerie questions, has requested me to bring the following points to your Excellency's notice :—

1. General Degiorgis states that the gendarmerie in those portions of the three vilayets where it is being reorganized has to be kept at present at 17 per cent. below strength for budgetary reasons. In all these kazas the foreign officers are complaining of the insufficiency of gendarmes to do the work, so that the missing 17 per cent. are urgently required. At the same time, the old unreformed gendarmerie in the Kazas of the three vilayets which lie outside the new organization is up to full strength, which is a manifest anomaly, as they are borne on the same Budget.

2. *Travelling Expenses.*—It is clearly unfair that the foreign officers should bear the expense of travelling on service, especially as the rate of pay was not calculated to include such charges. Since they arrived a year ago they have been trying to get something allowed, and though a definite scheme on a modest basis was drawn up some months ago, the question remains in suspense, as Hilmi Pasha declares to General Degiorgis, owing to difficulties at Constantinople. The General gave Colonel Fairholme to understand that it was Hilmi Pasha who feared that these charges might swell to inordinate dimensions, which is not the case.

Colonel Fairholme thinks it highly important that this point should be settled at once, as the summer is coming on, and it is evidently desirable that the foreign officers should frequently visit every portion of their district, which they can hardly be ordered to do when any such trip leaves them appreciably out of pocket.

3. Colonel Fairholme also informs me that the question of paying for new guard-houses ("karakols") has been settled on the principle that the cost of construction should be borne by the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 117.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Sophia, April* 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch which has been addressed to me by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Philippopolis on the subject of the arrest of six Bulgarians by a Turkish frontier patrol.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir G. Buchanan.

Sir, *Philippopolis, April* 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that I hear from the Prefecture of Philippopolis that on the 3rd or 4th instant a young Bulgarian, whilst proceeding from Tzepelar to his village near the Turkish frontier on the Bulgarian side, was arrested by a Turkish patrol, who accused him of having violated Ottoman territory and conveyed him to Pashmakli. Two days later five Bulgarians were arrested in the same manner whilst returning from Tsepelar—where they had been examined by a recruiting commission—to the village in question. A demand for their immediate extradition and for explanations was made by the authorities here, but up till yesterday no answer had been received. The authorities are of the opinion that in neither instance was there any violation of Turkish territory, but that, on the contrary, the Turkish patrol violated Bulgarian territory and conveyed their prisoners over the border; and they consider the arrests as unjustifiable, and as a provocation on the part of the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RAPHAEL B. FONTANA.

No. 118.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Sophia, April* 18, 1905.

SINCE I wrote my despatch of the 1st instant, the Bulgarian Government has supplemented the measures therein reported for the prevention of the passage of bands by various enactments of a restrictive character. Thus orders have been issued by the Commanders of brigades to put a stop at once to anything in the shape of a Macedonian propaganda in the army, while the sale of arms and ammunition in the frontier districts has been forbidden.

The attitude adopted by the Government has evoked much hostile criticism both in the press and in the country, more especially since the receipt of reports of the ever-increasing activity of Greek bands in Macedonia. Meetings have been held in several of the principal towns, at which resolutions were passed calling for the dismissal of all Greeks from the public service, and urging the Government to abandon its present apathetic policy.. A mass meeting has also been convoked for Sunday next in Sophia.

In the course of a conversation which I had to-day with General Petroff, his Excellency remarked that the rapidly-growing indignation with which the recent doings of the Greek bands were regarded by the country was rendering his own position doubly difficult and impairing the value of such restraining influence as he had hitherto been able to exercise on the leaders of the Macedonian movement. How, he asked, could his Government, after the massacre perpetrated by the Greeks at Zagorichani, enforce repressive measures against Macedonian sympathizers, or prevent the collection of funds for the Macedonian cause, while hostile bands were being openly recruited in Greece. He had, he said, on a previous occasion, given me the assurance that there would be no serious rising in Macedonia this year, but if the Greeks, with the secret connivance and encouragement of the Turks, continued to pursue their present course of murders and outrages, he would not answer for the result.

I ventured to observe that, much as I deplored the barbarous conduct of the

Greeks at Zagorichani, I had read a report in the papers to the effect that the massacre of the Bulgarians in that village was the sequel to the murder of certain Greeks at a neighbouring monastery, and that I trusted that the Bulgarian bands would not carry the process further by executing some fresh act of vengeance on Greeks, as in such a case the bloodshed in Macedonia would go on indefinitely.

General Petroff replied that it would be rather hard were the Bulgarians alone to be called on to refrain from all reprisals, while the Greeks were allowed to perpetrate murders under the very eyes of Turkish troops. His Excellency concluded by stating that a report which he had received on the subject of the Zagorichani massacre made it quite clear that the moral responsibility for that crime must be laid at the door of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received from General Petroff the accompanying copy of the report of which his Excellency spoke.

G. W. B.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Report respecting the Zagorichani Outrages communicated by General Petroff.

LE 24 Mars, à la tombée de la nuit, une bande Grecque de 200 à 300 hommes a cerné le village Bulgare de Zagoritchani, qui ressortit à la juridiction de l'Exarchat Bulgare. Ayant entendu des sons de trompette, les habitants du village ont cru à l'arrivée de troupes Ottomanes. Le lendemain, fête de l'Annonciation, de grand matin, au moment où ils se rendaient à l'église, ils furent surpris par des coups de feu tirés de tous côtés. La bande s'est précipitée sur eux, et après avoir massacré tous ceux qui se trouvaient dans les rues et autour de l'église, elle attaqua le reste des habitants dans leurs demeures, dont elle incendia plusieurs et détruisit d'autres avec des bombes de dynamite.

Le nombre des tués est de soixante, parmi lesquels des femmes et des enfants. Les blessés sont au nombre de sept. Il y a quinze maisons et vingt-huit chaumières et greniers incendiés ou détruits.

Pendant deux longues heures, cette bande a couronné son œuvre monstrueuse, mettant le village à feu et à sang, et ne s'est retirée qu'à la nouvelle de l'approche d'un détachement de soldats Ottomans commandés par le Sous-Lieutenant Nazir Bey.

On assure que la bande avait à sa tête trois officiers et une quinzaine de soldats de l'armée Grecque.

Les Consuls d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie, ainsi que les officiers du secteur Italien, se sont rendus à Zagoritchani, et ont constaté les horreurs commises par la bande. Dans les rues, autour de l'église, beaucoup de cadavres étaient mutilés: crânes écrasés, yeux arrachés, mains et jambes coupées. Des femmes avaient les mains coupées; des enfants de 5 ans avaient le ventre ouvert. L'un des prêtres du village, vieillard de 60 ans, a été assassiné, et son corps est couvert de blessures. Une famille entière a été tuée par les bombes jetées dans la maison: le père, la mère, et leurs enfants étaient horriblement mutilés par les éclats des bombes; une de leurs fillettes qui voulait fuir par la porte de la maison a été éventrée de coups de baïonnette.

Épouvantés de l'horrible sort de leurs coreligionnaires de Zagoritchani, les habitants des villages avoisinants ont abandonné leurs foyers pour s'enfuir dans les champs et les bois. Ainsi, lorsque les Consuls se rendaient à Zagoritchani, ils ne trouvèrent pas âme qui vive au village de Bobischta.

Que la bande Grecque qui a attaqué Zagoritchani n'a pu commettre ses attentats sans la complicité des autorités Ottomanes, les circonstances suivantes le prouvent surabondamment:—

1. Il est inadmissible qu'une bande de plus de 200 hommes ait pu s'organiser et se rendre à Zagoritchani sans avoir été aperçue par des Agents de l'autorité, lorsque de nombreux détachements de gendarmes et de troupes parcourent continuellement les routes et les villages, et qu'ils savent découvrir la cachette de la moindre bande Bulgare signalée dans une localité quelconque.

2. Quelques jours avant l'attentat, était arrivé à Zagoritchani, pour y faire des perquisitions domiciliaires, un détachement de troupes, dont le chef, au moment

d'entrer dans le village, avait commandé des sonneries de trompette. A ce bruit, les habitants, affolés, s'étaient mis à fuir. L'officier Ottoman les ayant fait arrêter et interroger pourquoi ils voulaient s'échapper, ils répondirent qu'ils avaient craint que ce ne fût une bande Grecque, arrivant au son de la trompette. L'officier les tranquillisa en leur disant que seul l' "asker" (armée) pouvait se servir de la trompette. Cependant quelques jours après, la bande Grecque qui cernait le village s'en est aussi servi; et alors, les habitants ne s'en inquiétèrent pas, croyant que c'était encore l' "asker." Coïncidence ou non, le fait mérite d'être relevé.

3. Le 1er (14) Mars, des paysans de Zélénitché avaient remis une requête à l'un des officiers Italiens pour lui demander sa protection contre les Grécomans de Belkamen et Eléovo (Caza de Kostour), qui, à l'instigation de leurs Chefs spirituels, projettaient une attaque contre leur village. L'officier Italien signala par deux fois à l'attention du Caïmacan (Sous-Préfet) les projets des Grécomans et les agissements d'un ingénieur Grec, au service de l'État à Lérine, qui passe pour être un Chef de bandes Grecques. Malgré ces avis, le Caïmacan n'a pris aucune mesure de protection ni même de précaution; il n'a pas surveillé les mouvements des bandes Grecques qui, au lieu de Zélénitché, ont attaqué Zagoritchani.

Les faits qui viennent d'être exposés sont assez significatifs, et la conclusion qui s'impose est que les autorités locales, et en particulier les Caïmacans de Lérine et de Kostour, ainsi que les Évêques Grecs en ces deux villes, sont absolument responsables de ce qui s'est passé à Zagoritchani.

(Translation.)

AT nightfall, on the 24th March, a Greek band of from 200 to 300 men surrounded the Bulgarian village of Zagoritchani, which belongs to the jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Exarch. Having heard the sound of bugles the inhabitants of the village thought that Turkish troops had arrived. On the following day—the fête of the Annunciation—in the early morning, at the moment when they were going to church, they were surprised by rifle fire opened on them from all sides. The band rushed at them and, after having massacred all those who were to be found in the streets and round the church, attacked the rest of the inhabitants in their houses, of which several were set on fire and others destroyed by dynamite bombs. The number of killed amounts to sixty, among whom are women and children. The wounded number seven. Fifteen houses and twenty-eight cottages and barns are burnt or destroyed.

During two long hours the band crowned its infamous work by putting the village to fire and sword, and only retired on hearing of the approach of a detachment of Ottoman troops commanded by 2nd Lieutenant Nazir Bey.

It is stated that the band was headed by three officers and fifteen soldiers of the Greek army.

The Consuls of Austria-Hungary and Russia, as well as the officers of the Italian "Secteur," went to Zagoritchani and reported the horrors committed by the band. In the streets and round the church many bodies were mutilated, skulls shattered, eyes torn out, hands and legs cut off. Women had their hands cut off; children 5 years old were disembowelled. One of the village priests, an old man of 60, was murdered, and his body is covered with wounds. One entire family was killed by bombs thrown into the house; father, mother, and children were horribly mutilated by bomb splinters; one of their little daughters, who tried to escape by the door, was cut open with a bayonet.

Terrified by the awful fate of their coreligionists of Zagoritchani, the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages have abandoned their homes in order to flee into the fields and woods. Thus, when the Consuls made their way to Zagoritchani they found no living soul in the village of Bobischta.

The fact that the Greek band which attacked Zagoritchani could not have committed its outrages without the complicity of the Ottoman authorities is superabundantly proved by the following circumstances:—

1. It is incredible that a band of more than 200 men could have been organized and could have proceeded to Zagoritchani without having been perceived by the Agents of the authorities, seeing that numerous detachments of gendarmes and of troops are continually passing along the roads and through the villages, and that they are able to discover the hiding place of the smallest Bulgarian band which is indicated as being in any locality whatever.

2. A few days before the outrage, a detachment of troops the commander of

which had ordered bugles to be sounded at the moment of entering the village arrived at Zagoritchani, for the purpose of making domiciliary visits there. On hearing this the inhabitants fled terror-stricken. When the Turkish officer had them stopped and asked them why they wished to escape, they replied that they had feared it was a Greek band arriving with bugles sounding. The officer calmed them by telling them that only the army could make use of bugles. A few days afterwards, however, the Greek band which surrounded the village also made use of them; and on that occasion the inhabitants were not frightened, thinking that it was again the "army." Coincidence or not, the fact is worth attention.

3. On the 1st March, some peasants of Zelenitché had handed in a request to one of the Italian officers to ask his protection against the Grecomans of Belkamen and Eléovo (Kaza of Kostour), who, at the instigation of their spiritual Chiefs, were projecting an attack against their village. On two occasions, the Italian officer called the attention of the Sous-Préfet to the projects of the Grecomans and to the proceedings of a Greek engineer, who occupies an official position at Lérine and who is supposed to be a leader of Greek bands. In spite of these warnings, the Sous-Préfet took no single measure of protection or even of precaution. He did not watch the movements of the Greek bands which attacked Zagoritchani instead of Zelenitché.

The facts here stated are sufficiently significant, and the conclusion which must be drawn is that the local authorities, and especially the Sous-Préfets of Lérine and of Kostour, as well as the Greek Bishops of these two towns, are entirely responsible for what has happened at Zagoritchani.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Translation of List of Outrages committed by Greek Band in Zagorichani Village on March 25, 1905.

1.—*Killed.*

No.	Names.	Age.	No.	Names.	Age.
1	Gheorghi Kandzoff	70	31	Djogata Todoroff	51
2	Kouzo Kostandoff	70	32	Jako Avramoff	75
3	Christo Temoff	65	33	Yani Kanzoff	70
4	Diné Bouscheff	26	34	Soultana Kanzova	15
5	Guilö Korovechoff	45	35	Kyriaco Sapounaroff	45
6	Guiro Modeff	20	36	Tassi Rapoff	62
7	Diné Tzoutzileff	38	37	Mité Lazoff	48
8	Pandovitza Mitakova	25	38	Nicolas Blatchenoff	75
9	Le R. P. Stephan	60	39	Gheorghi Blatchenoff	20
10	Andon Pitchiticoff	45	40	Março Vangheliovsky	90
11	Petre Motzoureff	50	41	Zissi Dimoff	80
12	Sido Vouleff	55	42	Manol Zissof	14
13	Vassil Tchitcheff	55	43	Yani Karoveschoff	57
14	Vassilitza Tchitcheva	50	44	Tassi Korovessoff	50
15	Natché Mantcheff	68	45	Kouzo Samardji	50
16	Nolé Doucoff	90	46	His wife Anghelina	35
17	Kolé Doucoff	38	47	His daughter Ghina	14
18	Kosta Chefoff	48	48	His daughter Cathérina	10
19	Naoum Moréoff	70	49	His daughter Olga	5
20	Vané Kiroff	71	50	Mité Skriéroff	75
21	Stoyan Kostadinoff	52	51	Mité Pogontcheff	70
22	Yantcho Trifonoff	54	52	Mité Philtchoff	56
23	Yantcho Dzifirsky	23	53	Christo Marazeff	70
24	Vanghel Gatzoff	85	54	Christo Kandzoff	60
25	Philippe Ghiontcheff	50	55	Micho Yoteff	70
26	Stoyan Ghiontcheff	20	56	Naky Matzoureff	45
27	Petre Schpatoff	20	57	Kouzo Drendoff	79
28	Vané Kolkotanoff	37	58	Mité Kondeff	45
29	Nicolas Constantinoff	80	59	Mité Kostandinoff	53
30	Kolé K. Konstandinoff	20	60	Kouzo Nanoff	55

2.—*Wounded.*

1	Petre Tipoeff	49	5	Sirma Rapova	49
2	Christo Soultansky, ...	52	6	Christovitza Marazova ..	53
3	Mité Gatzeff	46	7	Arghir Kara-Dimoff	9
4	Yanevitza Kanzova	58			

I.—List of the owners of houses, barns, shops, &c., burnt by the Greek band on the 25th March, 1905, in the Village of Zagorichani.

No.	Name.	Description of Property burnt.	No.	Name.	Description of Property burnt.
1	Nassé Schpatoff	Barn.	15	Kouzma K. Kostandoff ..	Barn.
2	Grigor Stephanoff	„	16	„ „ ..	House.
3	Kouzo Samardjieff	House.	17	Hadji K. Kostandoff ..	„
4	Vassil Karadimoff	„	18	Kouzo Nanoff	„
5	„ „	Barn.	19	Christo Vouleff	„
6	Mité Karadimoff	„	20	Pando Mitalkoff	„
7	Christo Kouzoff	House.	21	Kyriaco Vassoff	Barn.
8	„ „ .. .	Barn.	22	Nicolas Bouscheff ..	House.
9	Yani Kandzoff	„	23	Petre Tzaparoff	Barn.
10	Lazar Proïkoff	House.	24	Timian Fassine	Shop.
11	Diné Klascheff	„	25	Phili Bojidaroff ..	House.
12	Ghiortché Klaschef	Barn.	26	Kouzo Tzigoff	„
13	Nicolas Motchkoff	House.	27	Dimé Galioff	Barn.
14	Mito P. Kostandoff	„	28	Kouzo Nanoff	„

There were also ten cottages burnt.

II.—List of the owners of cattle killed or stolen.

No.	Name.	Description.
1	Yani Kanzoff	Two young bulls, one ox, killed.
2	Christo Kanzoff	One mare, one ox, killed.
3	Vané Ignatoff ..	One ox, killed.
4	Yoté Vlacheto	One mare, killed.
5	Kouzo Nanoff	One cow, two young bulls, killed.
6	Ilia Doukoff	One horse stolen.
7	Kosta Chilentzeff	„ „
8	Christo Pischmaroff	Twenty lambs stolen.

III.—Most of the houses were plundered.

No. 119.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Athens, April* 17, 1905.

I QUOTED this morning to M. Skouzès, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, the information recorded in Mr. Acting Consul Shipley's report, inclosed in Sir Nicholas O'Conor's despatch of the 19th March, to the effect that "extensive preparations are being made by the Greek party for more effectively combating the Bulgarian propaganda in the Castoria and Florina Kazas, the bands in question being now joined by volunteers from the town of Monastir itself, who, it is stated, gain their destination viâ Athens."

His Excellency began by saying that there are in Thessaly considerable numbers of Bulgarians engaged in different pursuits, and that these men take an active part in the smuggling of arms across the frontier.

I replied that the report in question concerned the reinforcement of Greek, not Bulgarian, bands.

M. Skouzès answered that the Government had done, and were doing, all they could; that he could state positively that no bands had been allowed to collect, but that it was impossible to prevent the passage of individuals across a long and difficult frontier.

His Excellency said that the difference between the two cases lay in this: that, in the case of the Bulgarians, insurgents were often killed or captured wearing military kalpaks and bearing rifles showing the Government mark, whereas, in the case of the Greeks, there was no such evidence of official connivance. He knew that the excuse offered was that the arms and uniforms had been stolen, but he did not think much of it.

I said I believed confusion had arisen from the similarity of the insurgents' uniform to that of the Bulgarian soldier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 120.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, April 24, 1905.*

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch of the 16th instant, His Majesty's Consul at Volo reports that there is no doubt that small quantities of arms are being smuggled from Thessaly, probably by boats, in circumstances which seem to point to the connivance of the Greek authorities.

He states also that small bands appear to have been recently assisted to cross the frontier.

The Consul regards any movement on a large scale as improbable at present, but thinks it not unlikely there may be some display of energy within the next two months.

Repeated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 121.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 26, 1905.*

THE British Gendarmerie officers at Drama having heard that arms are being smuggled by Greeks from Volo into Macedonia, His Majesty's Consul at Volo was instructed to make inquiries.

I repeat to you telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Athens containing his Report.

Suggest to Government to which you are accredited that Representatives of the Powers should call attention of Greek Government to the matter, and urge them to take effective measures to put a stop to such proceedings.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 26, 1905.*

I CONCUR generally in your views on the subject of the Macedonian financial reforms as expressed in your telegram of the 22nd instant.

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* Also to Sir F. Plunkett, Sir F. Lascelles, Sir E. Egerton, and Mr. Spring-Rice.

No. 123.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 27, 1905.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant.

Smuggling of arms into Macedonia.

I am informed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that this contravention has been brought to the notice of the Greek Government, and that he therefore is afraid that the representations of the Powers will be followed by but little result. If, however, the other Powers agree to make representations, the Italian Government would have no objection to joining.

No. 124.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 27, 1905.

WITH reference to reforms in Macedonia and your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, following draft proposal, respecting appointment of Financial Delegates and Inspectors for presentation to Ottoman Government, was communicated to me to-day by Baron de Calice:—

"Pour veiller à l'application du règlement qui précède et en assurer l'observation, les Gouvernements . . . . nommeront chacun un Délégué Financier. Ces Délégués des quatre Puissances agiront de concert avec l'Inspecteur-Général et les Agents Civils Austro-Hongrois et Russes, dont les attributions ont été définies dans le programme de Mürzsteg.

"La Commission ainsi formée devra être consultée lors de la fixation des budgets, qui ne deviendront effectifs qu'après avoir été approuvés par elle. Elle aura tous les pouvoirs nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche, et notamment pour réglementer la perception des taxes, y compris même la dîme.

En vue de la faciliter, elle aura la faculté de nommer pour chaque vilayet un Inspecteur chargé de la surveillance des agents qui sont employés aux divers services du Fisc."*

The agreement of the Sublime Porte to this proposal would be a necessary condition to our acceptance of the Bank scheme.

For the reasons given in my telegram of the 22nd instant, I attach great importance to the appointment of inspectors and, while acting subject to your Lordship's instructions, I have strongly urged my colleagues to agree to this essential point, about which any hesitation would be regrettable in my opinion.

I prefer, on the whole, that the Delegates, rather than the Ottoman Bank, should appoint and supervise these inspectors.

On my colleagues receiving answers from their respective Governments on the subject of the above draft proposal we propose to hold a meeting.

No. 125.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 27, 1905.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram respecting Macedonian reforms.

* Translation.—To supervise the application of the preceding regulation and insure its observation, the Governments . . . . will each nominate a Financial Delegate. These Delegates of the Four Powers will act in concert with the Inspector-General and the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Civil Agents, whose functions were defined in the Mürzsteg programme.

The Commission thus formed will have to be consulted when the Budgets are being fixed, and they will not become effective until after having been approved by it. It will have all powers necessary for the accomplishment of its task, and especially for regulating the collection of taxes, including also the tithe.

With a view to facilitating this task, it will have the power of nominating for each vilayet an Inspector charged with the supervision of the Agents employed in the various services of the Treasury

The insertion of the words "à l'exécution des réformes financières" in the first paragraph of the French text after the word "veiller" has been agreed to by Baron de Calice.

No. 126.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 17th instant, reporting the light sentences passed on the members of the Greek band captured near Yenije.

I approve the language used by your Excellency to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in regard to the leniency shown to Greek offenders as compared with the treatment accorded to Bulgarians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 127.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 28, 1905.

MACEDONIA. Your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant.

I suggested to M. de Mérey to-day that the Representatives of the Powers should call the attention of the Greek Government to the smuggling of arms into Macedonia, and urge them to take effective measures to put a stop to it.

His Excellency will let me know later the views of Count Goluchowski, but fears that these representations will do little good.

No. 128.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1905.

ON behalf of His Majesty's Government you may accept the draft on the subject of the Macedonian reforms, which was shown to you by the Austrian Ambassador, with the amendment contained in your telegram of the 27th instant.

In this form it seems sufficiently to meet our views.

No. 129.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 22, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on the recent Albanian attack on Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, April* 18, 1905.

I BEG to report as follows respecting an attack on Prisrend by Albanians:—

It appears that on the 11th instant the Albanians of Liuma and elsewhere, who were advancing on the town, assumed so threatening an attitude that the authorities were obliged to make use of artillery to prevent them from seizing the town.

This, however, was not done until the Cadi and the members of the Tribunal had given the Albanians notice, which was not believed, that the Imperial Iradé authorizing this step had been received.

Firing was begun about 1 o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday the 11th and continued until sunset. The artillery is said to have fired 150 rounds.

The next morning the Albanians were found to have dispersed.

The losses on their part were six killed and one wounded, while the troops had three men killed and four wounded. The horse of Major-General Ahmed Pasha was wounded.

The town of Yakova is still in a disturbed state owing to the murder of a man of Yakova at Prisrend. I hear on good authority that the murderer, a Serb, will probably be condemned to death and hanged as a concession to public opinion.

At Prishtina there are also signs of unrest, and the Mutessarif has been approached by several thousand Albanians, who have demanded in a threatening manner the abolition of the domestic animal tax.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 130.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 24, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, reporting on the entry of a Bulgarian band into the Greek village of Cre-onovos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Consul Townshend to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Adrianople, April 21, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Skassy, the Greek Consul here, has called upon me and informed me of the following incident which took place on Sunday the 9th instant at the village of Cre-onovos near Visa.

According to him a band of seven armed Bulgarians approached this village and seized a mill upon its outskirts, where, having bound the occupants, they waited till dark for the miller. On his arrival they wished to compel him to guide them into the village, and he, trying to escape, was shot in the wrist.

The band then entered the village and took a certain sum of money from a store. The villagers had meanwhile hidden themselves, the only two who had appeared having been fired on and wounded. The only importance of this affair is the fact that the Bulgarians entered the village, thus resorting to methods more purely Macedonian than have up to now been usual in the Vilayet of Adrianople, where the Komitajis have rather avoided actually entering the Greek villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. F. TOWNSHEND.

No. 131.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 25, 1905.*

AS your Lordship is aware from my despatch of the 17th instant, I have already made strong representations to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs against the comparative leniency shown by the Turkish authorities in dealing with outrages committed by Patriarchist bands, and I have now followed up the general observations which I made to Tewfik Pasha by urging on the Grand Vizier the necessity of taking energetic action to punish the persons implicated in the massacre

by a Greek band of over 60 Bulgarians at Zagorichani, reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 18th instant.

Mr. Lamb accordingly called on Ferid Pasha yesterday to inquire what steps had been taken, and learnt from his Highness that a considerable number of arrests had been made, and Hilmi Pasha had been instructed to institute an inquiry, but owing to indisposition the Inspector-General's departure from Salonica had been unavoidably postponed till to-day or to-morrow. The Kaïmakams of Florina and Castoria, who were accused of complicity in these outrages, his Highness admitted, were still in possession of their posts, but Hilmi Pasha naturally had the power to suspend them if the inquiry he was about to make should show that there were serious grounds for those accusations, which, however, he seemed inclined to disbelieve, attributing them to personal hostility on the part of the Italian Colonel, Albera.

Ferid Pasha went on to say that, under the Sultan's orders, he had sent for the Greek Patriarch and had instructed him to institute a searching inquiry into the conduct of the Bishops of Monastir, Castoria, and Naslitch, in connection with this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 132.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 24, 1905.*

I HAD the honour to receive from your Lordship on the 21st instant repetition of Sir N. O'Conor's despatch of the 16th instant, to the effect that, according to information received by the British gendarmerie officers at Drama, arms are being smuggled from Volo into Macedonia by Greeks, and your instructions to desire His Majesty's Consul at Volo to watch the matter and report to me.

I have the honour to inclose a paraphrase of a telegram which I have just received from Mr. Consul Merlin, and of which I have reported the principal points to your Lordship and to Sir N. O'Conor.

As regards the information which I reported by telegraph to your Lordship yesterday to the effect that 300 men, mostly Cretans, had left the Piræus under the command of Lieutenant Manos, of the Greek army, to join the Greek bands in Macedonia, I hesitated at first to give credence to the report, either as regards the number of men or as regards Lieutenant Manos being with them, inasmuch as that officer is an aide-de-camp of the Minister of War. Subsequent inquiry, however, has shown that a considerable number of men did leave the Piræus for the north on the date in question, and that Lieutenant Manos has obtained leave of absence to go to his estate in Eubœa; but it has not yet been ascertained whether he went there or not.

A further report has reached me that there are another thousand men ready to follow Lieutenant Manos' band, and that it is being given out among them that the Government is supporting the movement, and had 1,500,000 drachmas to spend upon it. The latter statement is quite incredible, seeing the condition of the Greek Treasury; and as to the former, that the Government approved of the movement, I do not believe that they gave it any official encouragement, though some of their subordinates must certainly connive at it.

There are, I am informed, two directing organizations here, the Macedonian Society and the "Hellenismos," both of which are active. It is said that much of their funds come from the charitable contributions collected for the relief of distress among the Greeks of Macedonia, and as to the distribution of which no public account is given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Consul Merlin to Sir F. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Volo, April* 24, 1905.

IN reply to your telegram of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that, from what I have lately gathered, there is no doubt that small quantities of arms are being smuggled from Thessaly, apparently with the connivance of the Greek local authorities. It is impossible to obtain definite information, but it appears probable that most of these arms are sent by boat to convenient places on the coast of the Gulf of Salonica. Small bands also appear to have been recently assisted to cross the frontier. It is, however, highly improbable that anything on a really large scale is at present contemplated, but it is not unlikely that some display of energy may be made within the next two months.

No. 133.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Sophia, April* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 13th instant* on the subject of the treatment of Mussulmans in Bulgaria, I have the honour to report that, though individual and isolated cases of ill-treatment probably occur, the Mussulmans, so far as I have been able to ascertain, have no reason to complain of anything in the shape of systematic persecution on the part either of the population or Government.

The administration of the Vakoufs, the appointment of the Mufti, and the destruction or conversion into churches of old or disused mosques are among their principal grievances, and are resented by them as infractions of their religious rights and privileges.

The conversion of the "Black Mosque" at Sophia into a church in 1902—against which a protest was raised at the time—was justified on the ground that it occupied the site of a sixteenth century church, that it had long been abandoned as a mosque, and that it had been used by the Turks themselves prior to 1878 as a depôt for arms. Two other old mosques have since been destroyed at Roustchouk—one of which had become a complete ruin, while the site of the other was required in connection with a scheme for the embellishment of the town.

The system adopted for the appointment of the Mufti and of the Commissioners charged with the administration of the Vakoufs has given rise to frequent complaints. It is regulated by a Decree sanctioned by the Sobranjé in 1895, according to which the Mufti are elected by members of the Mussulman community, while the right of confirming or vetoing the appointment is reserved to the Government. The only control over these appointments left in the hands of the Sheikh-ul-Islam consists in the fact that candidates for the position of Mufti must be in possession of a diploma issued by him.

As regards the acts of aggression and of sacrilege of which Musurus Pasha complains, the inquiries which I have made lead me to believe that the Mussulman population in the large towns have no reasonable cause of complaint, but that in the mixed villages in the more remote districts cases occasionally occur of a character similar to those reported by Sadik Pasha. Whether such acts are inspired by the resentment aroused by the events of which Macedonia has so long been the theatre, or whether the perpetrators of them are actuated by the desire to get rid of their Turkish neighbours in order to take possession of their property, the acts themselves cannot possibly be regarded as forming part of a deliberate and systematic policy of expropriation. In the years immediately following the Russo-Turkish war, when the position of what had once been the dominant race was not an enviable one, a considerable Mussulman emigration took place, which was further encouraged by the preaching of Mullahs who incited their co-religionists to leave the Principality and establish themselves in such parts of the Ottoman Empire as were under the immediate rule of the Caliph. For a considerable number of years, moreover, the somewhat harsh measures adopted by the local authorities for the

* Transmitting No. 81.

enforcement of the payment of debts and taxes pressed so hardly on the Mussulmans that many preferred to emigrate. The Government, however, seems gradually to have awoken to the mischievous effects of a system which was driving out of the country such large numbers of its agricultural population, and the present Cabinet can certainly not be accused of a hostile attitude towards the Mussulmans settled in the Principality, or of encouraging on the part of the rest of the population acts designed to outrage their religious sentiments or to do them bodily harm.

On the other hand, I fear that the feeling of exasperation produced in the country by the accounts of the Zagorichani massacre, fostered as it is by the holding of indignation meetings, may lead, in spite of the measures of precaution taken by the Government, to acts of retaliation against individual Mussulmans. A case of this character has just occurred at Roustchouk, where three non-commissioned officers attacked nine Mussulmans and wounded several of them before the police had time to effect their arrest.

On my mentioning the subject privately to General Petroff in the course of a recent conversation, his Excellency observed that in Bulgaria, like every country in the world, crimes and misdemeanours were unfortunately sometimes committed, but that, as he had pointed out to Sadik Pasha, the Bulgarian Tribunals were open to Mussulmans and Christians alike, and that any case of a denial of justice to a Mussulman, which was brought to his notice, should be inquired into. The Mussulman population, his Excellency continued, was represented in the Sobranjé by twelve deputies, and yet not one of these had raised his voice during the recent Session against the persecutions to which, according to Sadik Pasha, their co-religionists were exposed, and he would also remind me that the Bulgarian Government made an annual grant of 80,000 fr. (3,200*l.*) to Turkish schools in the principality. So little reason had he to fear an inquiry into the whole question that he had recently instructed M. Natchovits to inform the Porte that he was ready to submit it to a thorough examination on the part of a Mixed or International Commission, provided that the Ottoman Government would consent to the same Commission making a similar inquiry into the treatment of the Christian population in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

No. 134.

Sir F. Plunkett to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 1.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 29, 1905.

I CALLED yesterday on M. de Mérey and, in compliance with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, I spoke to him of the extent to which arms had lately been smuggled between Greeks from Volo into Macedonia, apparently with the connivance of the Greek authorities. I said your Lordship was disposed to think that the Representatives of the Powers should call the attention of the Greek Government to this matter, and urge them to take effective measures to put a stop to such proceedings.

His Excellency said he must speak with Count Goluchowski before giving me a reply, but, expressing merely his personal opinion, he said he doubted representations at Athens doing much good, it would be more to the point to make them at Constantinople.

As I expressed surprise, his Excellency went on to explain that he believed the blame to lie mainly with the intentional negligence of the Turks on that frontier. His Excellency said that if the Turks would give proof of as much readiness to stop the Greeks as they showed against the Bulgarians, things in Macedonia would probably work more smoothly than they do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches of the 15th and 18th instant, inclosing reports from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir in regard to the massacre of the inhabitants of Zagorichani by a Greek band on the 7th ultimo. The state of things disclosed by these accounts demands the serious immediate attention of the Turkish Government. It appears from them that the villagers, having cause for apprehension, had appealed to the authorities for protection, both verbally and in writing, and that the Italian gendarmerie officer had also personally warned the Kaïmakam of Florina of the impending danger. As a result of these representations, these unfortunate people only received assurances and advice which proved entirely misleading. It is to be noted that in the opinion of the Italian officers, who are in a good position to judge, the massacre had been carefully planned for some time previously, and was countenanced at least indirectly by the Kaïmakams and Greek Metropolitans of Kastoria and Florina, the latter of whom seem to have freely threatened violence against the Exarchists.

It is in any case almost impossible to believe that after the warnings which had been given, the Turkish authorities could have remained ignorant of the assembly of this large band, or that it could have succeeded in carrying out its intentions without their tacit connivance. Your Excellency should renew your representations to the Sublime Porte in regard to the apathy with which these outrages are treated, and the leniency shown towards the Patriarchist bands. You should point out that incidents like that of Zagorichani cannot fail to provoke acts of retaliation on the part of the Exarchists, and that the Turkish Government, by their indifference and neglect of ordinary precautions, have incurred a heavy responsibility for these lamentable events.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 136.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th ultimo.

The following is a paraphrase of a telegram just received from His Majesty's Consul at Volo:—

"I have been most credibly informed that parties of from 25 to 30, making in all 120 men, have during the past seven days been conveyed by rail from Volo to Kalambaka. Lieutenant Manos has been almost certainly recognized superintending the arrangements at the railway station."

I have been told also that that officer had crossed the frontier. Information has been received here, but not positively confirmed, to the effect that there are fifteen Greek officers in Macedonia.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 137.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 2, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 27th ultimo, respecting reforms in Macedonia.

The Ambassadors, subject to the approval of their Governments, have accepted following modification of paragraphs 2 and 3, which has been made by the German Ambassador.

I should be glad to know as soon as possible whether your Lordship has any objection to the proposed alterations, as we shall probably meet during the week to settle this point and to draft a note to the Sublime Porte, presenting our demands:—

"La Commission ainsi formée aura tous les pouvoirs nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche, et notamment pour veiller à la perception régulière des taxes, y compris la dîme.

"Avant de devenir définitifs, les budgets devront être soumis à la Commission. Elle aura le droit de rectifier dans les chapitres des recettes et des dépenses les dispositions qui ne seraient pas conformes aux lois existantes ou ne répondraient point aux besoins économiques et financiers du pays."*

No. 138.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1905.*

THE wording proposed in your telegram of yesterday on the subject of the Macedonian reforms is in some ways an improvement, and I have no objection to it.

No. 139.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 3, 1905.*

I HAD a short conversation with the French Ambassador to-day upon the situation in Macedonia, and I explained to him in general terms the position which His Majesty's Government had taken up with regard to the appointment of Financial Delegates to be associated with the Civil Agents of the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments. I explained to his Excellency that we thought it of the utmost importance that these international Delegates should not only be intrusted with the duty of supervising the Budget, but should be in a position to satisfy themselves that the payments authorized by the Budget were properly and punctually made.

Later in the day I sent his Excellency a note, of which I inclose a copy, showing the present position of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Cambon.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to the French Ambassador, and has the honour to transmit herewith the Memorandum promised to his Excellency yesterday, showing the present state of the proposal to appoint Financial Delegates of the four Powers in connection with Macedonian financial reform.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Memorandum respecting Draft Proposal of Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople as originally accepted.

"POUR veiller à l'exécution des réformes financières et à l'application du Règlement qui précède, et en assurer l'observation, les Gouvernements nommeront chacun un Délégué Financier. Ces Délégués des quatre Puissances agiront de concert avec l'Inspecteur-Général et les Agents Civils Austro-Hongrois et Russe, dont les attributions ont été définies dans le programme de Mürzsteg.

* TRANSLATION.—The Commission thus formed will have all powers necessary for the accomplishment of its task, particularly for the supervision of the regular collection of the taxes, including the tithe.

Before being finally settled, the Budgets must be submitted to the Commission, who will have the right to amend, under the head of receipts and expenditure, any provisions which may be inconsistent with the existing laws or unsuited to the economic and financial requirements of the country.

" La Commission ainsi formée devra être consultée lors de la fixation des Budgets, qui ne deviendront effectifs qu'après avoir été approuvés par elle. Elle aura tous les pouvoirs nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche, et notamment pour réglementer la perception des taxes, y compris même la dîme. En vue de la faciliter, elle aura la faculté de nommer pour chaque vilayet un Inspecteur chargé de la surveillance des Agents qui sont employés aux divers services du Fisc."*

The German Ambassador at Constantinople has proposed as a modification to the later paragraphs the following, which has been accepted by the other Ambassadors, subject to approval:—

" La Commission ainsi formée aura tous les pouvoirs nécessaires à l'accomplissement de sa tâche, et notamment pour veiller à la perception régulière des taxes, y compris la dîme. Avant de devenir définitifs, les Budgets devront être soumis à la Commission. Elle aura le droit de rectifier dans les chapitres des recettes et des dépenses les dispositions, qui ne seraient pas conformes aux lois existantes ou ne répondraient point aux besoins économiques et financiers du pays."†

Lord Lansdowne sees no objection to this.

No. 140.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 3, 1905.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th instant, respecting the passage from Greece into Macedonia of Greek bands for the purpose of making reprisals on the Bulgarian portion of the population, and I approve your action in drawing the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the subject.

The report from His Majesty's Consul at Volo, contained in your telegram of the 24th instant, gives evidence of great and culpable laxity, if not of actual connivance on the part of the Greek authorities, who are evidently not making any serious effort to stop the export of arms from that port, and the passage of men into Turkish territory with the object of committing outrages on the Christians of a different race and religious sect.

You should point out to the Greek Government that, while such practices are permitted by them, they cannot reasonably expect that the complaints which they so constantly address to the Great Powers on the subject of Bulgarian outrages on the Greek population should elicit sympathy or command attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 141.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 3, 1905.

I INFORMED the Turkish Ambassador to-day that I had made inquiries with regard to the statement made to me by his Excellency on the 5th ultimo, as recorded in my despatch to your Excellency of that date, to the effect that the Mussulman population of Bulgaria was undergoing persecution. Sir George Buchanan had made inquiries upon the subject, and had spoken to General Petroff; and I had now received

* TRANSLATION.—To supervise the execution of the financial reforms and the application of the preceding regulation and insure its observation, the Governments will each name a Financial Delegate. These Delegates of the Four Powers will act in concert with the Inspector-General and the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Civil Agents, whose functions were defined in the Mürzsteg programme.

The Commission thus formed will have to be consulted when the Budgets are being fixed, and they will not become effective until after having been approved by it. It will have all powers necessary for the accomplishment of its task, and especially for regulating the collection of taxes, including also the tithe. With a view to facilitating this task, it will have the power of nominating for each vilayet an Inspector charged with the supervision of the Agents employed in the various services of the Treasury.

† TRANSLATION.—The Commission thus formed will have all the powers necessary for the accomplishment of its task, and particularly for the supervision of the regular collection of taxes, including the tithe. Before being finally settled, the Budgets must be submitted to the Commission, who will have the right to amend, under the head of receipts and expenditure, any provisions which may be inconsistent with the existing laws, or unsuited to the economic and financial requirements of the country.

from Sir George a despatch which went to show that, although cases such as were referred to in the Turkish statement, might occasionally have occurred in the more remote districts, the Mussulmans did not appear to have any reason to complain of anything in the shape of systematic persecution on the part of the population or Government of Bulgaria.

I subsequently sent his Excellency the Memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Memorandum communicated to Musurus Pasha.

HIS Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia has made inquiries on the subject of the reported ill-treatment of Mussulmans in Bulgaria, referred to in the papers communicated by the Turkish Ambassador on the 5th April last.

Sir G. Buchanan states that, so far as he has been able to ascertain, the suggestion that the Mussulmans are subject to systematic persecution on the part either of the population or the Government of Bulgaria is not in accordance with the facts as regards the acts of aggression and sacrilege to which the Turkish Government refer. The inquiries which Sir George Buchanan has made lead him to believe that the Mussulman population in the large towns have no reasonable cause of complaint, although in the mixed villages in the more remote districts, cases occasionally occur of a character similar to those reported by Sadik Pasha.

In the years immediately following the Russo-Turkish War a considerable Mussulman emigration took place, which was encouraged by the Mollahs; and the somewhat harsh measures adopted for a considerable number of years by the local Bulgarian authorities for the enforcement of the payment of debts and taxes doubtless contributed to the same end. These practices have, however, of late been discontinued, and the present Cabinet cannot be accused of a hostile attitude towards the Mussulmans settled in the principality or of encouraging acts designed to outrage their religious sentiments or to do them bodily harm.

On the other hand, Sir G. Buchanan fears that the feeling of exasperation produced in the country by the accounts of the Zagorichani massacre may lead, in spite of the measures of precaution taken by the Government to acts of retaliation against individual Mussulmans.

General Petroff has pointed out to Sadik Pasha that the Bulgarian Tribunals were open to Mussulmans and Christians alike, and he has stated that any case of denial of justice to a Mussulman, which was brought to his notice, would be inquired into. He has also drawn attention to the fact that though the Mussulman population was represented in the Sobranyé by twelve deputies, yet not one of these had raised his voice during the recent session against the persecutions to which, according to Sadik Pasha, their co-religionists were exposed.

Foreign Office, May 5, 1905.

No. 142.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

My Lord, *Athens, April* 27, 1905.

I HAVE communicated to M. Skouzès, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, the statements contained in Mr. Consul Merlin's telegram of the 24th instant (a paraphrase of which was inclosed in my despatch of that date), that small quantities of arms are being smuggled from Thessaly, apparently with the connivance of the Greek authorities, and that small bands also appear to have been recently assisted to cross the frontier.

His Excellency asked me whether I had heard of the case of the cavass of one of the Consulates at Salonica—he believed the Servian—who was caught bringing in two Mannlicher rifles under his coat; or of the private of the new gendarmerie who was found engaged in a similar occupation. He mentioned also the recent discovery of a large cargo of arms near Cavalla, which had been proved to be intended not for Greeks at all, but for Bulgarian Komitajis. I said that the question by whom the arms were

imported and for whom they were intended was immaterial; the point was that the traffic should be prevented entirely; while, in the present instance, the serious part of the case was the assertion that Greek authorities connived at both the smuggling of arms by sea and the formation and dispatch of small bands by land.

M. Skouzès again pleaded the extent both of coast-line and land frontier and the difficulty of guarding them; and said, with regard to the formation of bands, that so long as people did nothing contrary to the law, it was impossible to prevent them from meeting, just as it was impossible to prevent them from passing the frontier singly and in small parties. Nothing, however, was done at all comparable to what took place on the Bulgarian frontier, where whole bands crossed under the command of Bulgarian officers.

I repeated that I thought the attitude and proceedings of some of the Greek authorities in Thessaly required the attention of the Government, and M. Skouzès said he would make inquiries.

I have thought it best to mention the matter to the Minister at once, as from myself, without waiting for the collective representations from the Powers foreshadowed in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.*

Since writing the above, I have obtained what I consider trustworthy information to the effect that Lieutenant Manos passed through Chalcis a few days ago on his way to Macedonia viâ Volo, with followers—mostly Cretans—whose number is variously estimated, but is probably nearer 30 than 300, as originally stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 143.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 27, 1905.*

THE mention of Bulgaria in the conversation recorded in my immediately preceding despatch led M. Skouzès to allude to the recent affair at Philippopolis, where he said the windows of a Greek school had been broken and some Greek houses had been sacked, after a public meeting. At Sophia and Bourgas, where similar meetings had been held, proper precautions had been taken by the police, and the strong language used against the Greeks had not led to any acts of violence; but at Philippopolis the police had taken no measures, and the consequence was the damage to property, for which the Greek Government demanded satisfaction and reparation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 144.

Mr. Spring-Rice to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 3, 1905.*

ARMS smuggling from Volo.

Your Lordship's telegram of the 26th ultimo.

I was to-day informed by Count Lamsdorff that he is prepared to take all possible steps to prevent the insurgents in Macedonia from obtaining assistance. He has to-day spoken to the Greek Minister on the subject of Greek officers being among the insurgent bands.

No. 145.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 5, 1905.*

AT a meeting of the Ambassadors held to-day, we agreed to present to the Sublime Porte the proposals as modified in my telegram of the 2nd instant, and expect to do so on the 8th or 9th instant.

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* Repeating No. 121.

No. 146.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 5, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 18th instant, inclosing copy of a despatch from the British Gendarmerie Adjoint in Macedonia on the subject of the tendency shown by the Turkish authorities to curtail the powers of the foreign gendarmerie officers, more especially with regard to the right of the latter to have access to the prisons.

This point is one to which His Majesty's Government attach great importance, and they cannot tolerate the withdrawal of facilities of which the British gendarmerie officers have been in actual enjoyment, and which are necessary for the efficient exercise of their duties of supervision and control.

The question is not one which should be allowed to remain in suspense for an indefinite period, and it would be advisable that your Excellency should ascertain what steps General Degiorgis is taking for the removal of the restrictions which have been imposed, and should, if necessary, support him by direct representations to the Porte on the subject.

The action taken by Colonel Fairholme in this matter has my approval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 147.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 5, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 19th ultimo, inclosing a report by Colonel Fairholme on the general situation in the Drama district, together with a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, commenting on the difficulties with which it appears that General Degiorgis has to contend in obtaining the necessary funds for the proper maintenance of the reorganized gendarmerie force.

His Majesty's Government view this state of affairs with great concern, and they entirely approve the representations which your Excellency has already made to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

The satisfactory progress made by the new corps in the comparatively short period which has elapsed since its reorganization, and the valuable work performed by both officers and men, has been fully demonstrated in the reports received by His Majesty's Government.

Referring more particularly to that portion of the force under British supervision, His Majesty's Government are glad to note in Colonel Fairholme's report the results which have been achieved in the elimination of the unfit elements from the force, the introduction of trained officers and men, and the improved system of patrols whereby the gendarmerie is brought into touch with every corner of the district.

Previous despatches from your Excellency and from Mr. Townley also bear testimony to the value of the work which has been performed by the British officers, and the tranquillizing influence which they and the men whom they have trained exercise both with the official classes and the population.

Notable instances are to be found in the effective action of Major Martyn and Captain Hamilton and their men at Cavalla, as reported in your despatch of the 25th March, and in the incidents at Visochan and Volak, related by Lieutenant-Colonel Anley and Captain Smyly in the reports inclosed in Colonel Fairholme's despatch. The tact and forethought displayed by both officers and men on these occasions are, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, worthy of high commendation.

It is a source of much satisfaction to His Majesty's Government that the work performed by the British officers has been appreciated by the Inspector-General, the Austrian Civil Agent, and several Turkish Notables, all of whom have borne generous testimony to their services.

While thus noting the work performed by the British officers, of whose pro-

ceedings they naturally possess special knowledge, His Majesty's Government equally recognize the valuable services rendered by those of the other Powers.

In the recent deplorable incidents at Kuklitch the timely arrival of the Russian gendarmerie officer on the scene, and the exhaustive report of the circumstances which he was able to supply, enabled your Excellency and the Russian Ambassador to urge with additional force your demands for inquiry and punishment; while in the events which took place at Smol another Russian officer was enabled to report that order and discipline had been maintained, and that only the guilty parties had been punished.

A satisfactory feature in the new organization is the establishment of the two schools at Salonica for the "Chefs de poste" and the "élèves-gendarmes" under the superintendence of Major Bonham. The reports which His Majesty's Government have received in regard to these institutions show that a success in training has been achieved which has created a great impression among the Turkish officers, and bids fair to raise the whole tone of the gendarmerie force. The manner in which the two Turkish officers, who were the first from the school to be placed in charge of delicate operations, controlled their men on the occasion of the incident at Mesmer, near Vodema, reflects great credit on their training, and a more recent instance of the value of this trianing has been afforded by the prompt action of a Lieutenant of gendarmerie —an ex-pupil of the school—who was instrumental in arresting the massacre at Zagorichani.

These and other instances give satisfactory evidence that the force is beginning to affect perceptibly the welfare of the inhabitants of the area over which it is extended.

It is therefore a matter of grave concern to His Majesty's Government to learn that the development of the corps which has been progressing in so promising a manner, and which it is so necessary to encourage, is being crippled by the inadequacy of the funds assigned by the Ottoman Government for its service; and that, instead of seeking opportunities of increasing the usefulness of the force, the Inspector-General has insisted on a reduction of expenditure incurred upon it. The result has been to deprive it of 17 per cent. of its proper numbers, in spite of the fact that the Kazas outside the area of the reform are provided from the same funds with a sufficient sum for the maintenance at full strength of a body of untrained men.

It appears that difficulties have also been raised at Constantinople in regard to the payment of the expenses of the officers while travelling on service. There cannot, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, be any justification for objecting to so legitimate a charge. It is obviously impossible to expect that the officers can be ordered to travel at their own expense, and if they are thus debarred from visiting every portion of their districts, their usefulness will be impaired in a very marked degree.

The construction of guard-houses forms a very important part of the scheme of reform, but the decision which appears to be have been taken that the cost of their construction shall be borne by the inhabitants of the district in which they are situated seems one of very doubtful expediency, and it would be desirable that some arrangement should be made less likely to create local prejudice against the force.

The condition of the prison at Drama, as reported by Colonel Fairholme, calls for serious notice, and I have requested your Excellency in a separate despatch to urge upon the Porte the necessity of maintaining the right hitherto accorded to the gendarmerie officers of inspecting the prisons in their districts.

I request that your Excellency will make renewed representations to the Turkish Government in the sense of this despatch.

You will point out to them how important it is to avoid any measures which might tend to retard the progress of the reorganized gendarmerie, and you will especially insist on the necessity of affording the full amount of financial support which has been sanctioned by the Sultan for its maintenance.

I shall be glad to receive from your Excellency an early report of the result of these representations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 14th April, transmitting a Report from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, in which reference is made to some of the recent encounters between Turkish troops and Bulgarian bands. In this Report Mr. Graves draws attention to the appearance on the scene of large numbers of Mussulman Bashi-Bozouks, who have been allowed to share in the operations of the troops and in the ensuing scenes of disorder and destruction.

His Majesty's Government have heard with the greatest concern that the Turkish military authorities are accepting the co-operation of an element which has made itself notorious throughout Europe by its lawless methods.

I have accordingly to request you to remonstrate strongly with the Sublime Porte against the conduct of the authorities in permitting these irregularities, and it is in direct violation of the Grand Vizier's instructions to the Valis, communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador and reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 8th April, 1902,* to the effect that all action taken against the bands must be carried out by the regular troops and the regular police and by them alone.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 149.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo, respecting the outrages committed by Greek bands, and I learn with satisfaction that you have anticipated the instructions sent to your Excellency in my despatch of the 1st May, and that you have urged on the Grand Vizier the necessity of taking energetic action to punish the persons implicated in the massacre at Zagorichani.

I observe that his Highness informed Mr. Lamb that a considerable number of arrests had been made, and that Hilmi Pasha had been instructed to institute an inquiry, but the language of his Highness, as reported by Mr. Lamb, does not seem to indicate a full appreciation on his part of the gravity of this occurrence, and I should wish your Excellency to renew your representations, and to urge upon the Turkish Government the necessity of deterrent measures sufficient to prevent the recurrence of such deplorable incidents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 150.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1905.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th ultimo, reporting that you have communicated to M. Skouzés the statements furnished by His Majesty's Consul at Volo in regard to the apparent connivance of the Greek authorities in the smuggling of arms and the passage of bands across the frontier into Macedonia.

I approve your action in bringing this matter to the notice of the Greek Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* See "Turkey No. 1 (1903)," No. 186.

No. 151.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir G. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1905.

IT appears from Sir F. Elliot's despatch of the 27th April, copy of which has been forwarded to you direct, that the Greek Government have demanded satisfaction and reparation from the Bulgarian Government in connection with a recent affair at Philippopoli, in which the windows of a Greek school were broken, and some Greek houses sacked, in consequence, it is alleged, of proper precautions not having been taken by the police.

I should be glad to receive from you a report of this incident, and of the result of any representations made by the Greek Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 152.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 29, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Salonica reporting an encounter between Bulgarian bands near Melnik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 152.

Vice-Consul du Vallon to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, April* 25, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from Dr. Théodorides, the British Vice-Consul at Serres, reporting an encounter between Bulgarian bands in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. DE J. DU VALLON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 152.

Vice-Consul Théodorides to Consul-General Graves.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 24 Avril,* 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, Vendredi passé, une rencontre a eu lieu près de Kapatovo (Kaza Melnik) entre deux bandes Bulgares, l'une commandée par Sandansky, partisan de Sarafoff, et l'autre par le Capitaine Stoyanoff, partisan du Général Tsontcheff.

Sept ont été tués et plusieurs blessés de deux côtés.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Serres, April* 24, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that an encounter took place last Friday near Kapatovo (Kaza of Melnik) between two Bulgarian bands, one under Sandansky, a partisan of Sarafoff, and the other under Captain Stoyanoff, a partisan of General Tsontcheff.

Seven were killed and several wounded on both sides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

No. 153.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 29, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Salonica transmitting a Report by the Russian gendarmerie officer on the encounter between soldiers and Bulgarians at Zervi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Vice-Consul du Vallon to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, April* 26, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Graves' telegram of the 26th March, reporting an encounter which took place at Zervi on the preceding day, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the Report sent in by the Russian gendarmerie officer stationed at Vodena, who, owing to his late arrival on the scene, was unable to do more than visit the ruins of the village and question some of those who witnessed the attack by the soldiers. The presence of Bashi-Bozouks, who, as usual, pillaged right and left, and the complicity of the Mudir of Ostrovo seem to be established beyond doubt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. DE J. DU VALLON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Report of Russian Gendarmerie Officer on Zervi Affair.

PAR ordre de votre Excellence je me suis rendu le 15 Mars à Zervi. Averti par ma dépêche, le Capitaine de Compagnie VI, Ahmed Effendi, m'a rejoint à la station de Vodena. A peine descendus du train à Ostrovo, nous nous sommes rendus à cheval vers le village de Zervi, où nous arrivâmes à 3 heures de l'après-midi.

Dès que nous fûmes entrés dans le village, nous pûmes constater qu'il fut anéanti. De quarante-six maisons qui formaient le village, il ne restait que six à moitié brûlées et pillées. Les autres quarante, détruites par le feu, faisaient l'aspect de ruines; seul le konak d'un Bey n'était pas atteint par le feu.

J'ai rencontré dans ce village une dizaine de villageois Bulgares et quelques femmes fouillant apathiquement les cendres des maisons, cherchant sous les débris les cadavres de leurs parents.

Après avoir fait la tournée dans le village, nous nous sommes rendus à l'église située hors du village, où on nous a montré trente-quatre cadavres des habitants de Zervi étendus sur le plancher, parmi lesquels se trouvaient vingt-trois hommes, neuf femmes, et deux enfants. Les villageois craignent que d'autres victimes encore ne soient ensevelis sous les débris. Plusieurs cadavres portaient des signes d'atrocités brutales; j'ai vu des profondes blessures par coups de haches, une tête séparée du torse, une dizaine de cadavres carbonisés par le feu. Les villageois présents le 11 Mars m'ont déposé ce qui suit:—

"Le Vendredi, 11 Mars, à l'aube, nous fûmes tous réveillés par de nombreux coups de fusil partant de tous côtés. Nous qui étions levés, courant de sortir des maisons, avons constaté le village cerné par des soldats et des Bachi-Bouzoucks Musulmans, habitants d'Oslovo. Ces derniers, armés de fusils, de haches, et même de massues, s'approchèrent de l'est. Bientôt les maisons, allumées par les Bachi-Bouzoucks, commencèrent à brûler. Poursuivis par de balles, nous tâchions nous sauver. Des femmes et des enfants tombèrent victimes des Bachi-Bouzoucks et des soldats enragés."

Riza Effendi, Mudir d'Ostrovo, le seul représentant du Gouvernement local, était témoin indifférent de tous ces excès barbares. On m'assure même que c'est lui

l'auteur de l'invasion. Vers 3 heures P.M., dans le village brûlant de tous côtés, arriva le Caïmacan de Vodena. Il prit immédiatement les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher le pillage et chasser les assassins, même il confisqua personnellement le fusil d'un nommé Abdul Karaman, habitant d'Oslovo.

Les villageois indiquèrent les Musulmans suivants comme assassins et pilleurs de leurs biens et de leurs troupeaux : habitants d'Oslovo—Ismaïl Zeinel, Arslan Ali Riza, Islam Trandjo, Abbas Houssein, Ghegha Halvadji, Djelil Moutcho ; habitants d'Ostrovo—Djorji Hussein, Ibrahim Roustem, Hussein Arab.

Les habitants de Zervi s'abstiennent de donner des renseignements justes sur la présence supposée de soixante Comitadjis comme soutiennent les autorités. J'ai pu seulement constater que le matin du 11 il ne se trouvait plus de six Comitadjis. Il est bien possible que les informations prises par le Mudir soient exagérées. Aucun cadavre de ces derniers n'a été trouvé.

Les villageois déposent qu'ils n'ont pas tiré contre les troupes et Bachi-Bouzoucks, pour la simple raison qu'ils n'avaient pas d'armes.

Le prêtre, Z. Stoyan, interrogé sur l'événement, a déposé :

" Le 10 Mars, au soir, six Comitadjis armés, arrivés du côté des montagnes, sont entrés dans ma maison, et me menacèrent de mort si je ne prêtais pas hospitalité. Le lendemain, quand le village fut cerné, dès qu'ils ont entendu les coups de fusil, ils ont pris la fuite.

" Un blessé resta dans ma maison et tira contre les soldats ; probablement il périt dans les flammes. Les autorités n'ont pas invité, comme ils le disent, les habitants à se retirer des maisons. Vu l'impossibilité de rester dans la maison, moi et les femmes qui s'y trouvaient quittâmes la maison. Les soldats m'ont arrêté. Étant interrogé s'il y avait des Comitadjis dans ma maison, je répondis qu'il n'y en avait plus. J'étais grièvement battu par les soldats. J'ignore s'il y avait des Comitadjis dans les autres maisons.

" Les Bachi-Bouzoucks ont mis le feu dans toutes les maisons et pillé le village en commun avec les soldats.

" Parmi les habitants, ceux qui réussirent à s'échapper se réfugièrent à Ostrovo ; les autres qui ne le pouvaient pas furent tués. Le Mudir, qui était présent pendant ces désordres, ne prit aucune mesure pour empêcher les dégâts ; au contraire, il donnait des ordres pour les exécuter. L'invasion des Musulmans était son œuvre.

" Parmi les trente-quatre cadavres dans l'église il n'y a aucun Comitadji. Nous avons encore treize blessés, qu'on a transporté à Ostrovo. Le prêtre garde chez lui six orphelins dont les père et mère étaient tués."

Le gendarme Mehmed Salih, qui se trouvait, le 11 Mars, à Zervi, a déposé :

" A 3 heures du matin, avec le gendarme Mehmed Ali et le Sergent Djellaleddin, à la tête de soixante soldats Nizamié, commandés par le Lieutenant Ali Riza Effendi, nous avons pris la marche vers le village de Zervi. Le Mudir d'Ostrovo a suivi le détachement. En nous approchant du village nous fûmes divisés en deux groupes. L'un, avec le Sergent Djellaleddin, a cerné le village du côté du sud ; l'autre, où j'étais avec le gendarme Mehmed Ali, entra du côté ouest du village dans un défilé, pour faire une embuscade du côté de la colline au nord du village, sur laquelle, comme on supposait, les Comitadjis se trouvaient.

" Bientôt nous entendîmes de nombreux coups de fusil. Les soldats tiraient sur les villageois ; ces derniers ripostaient. Un brouillard empêchait de fixer précisément la direction où se passait la fusillade. Après quelque temps nous avons constaté notre Sergent et trois soldats tués, autres trois blessés (?). On a tiré toute la journée. Quelquefois on entendait des détonations comme les explosions de bombes.

" Tout le village était en flammes quand, vers 3 heures P.M., arriva le Caïmacan de Vodena avec notre Lieutenant. Étant toujours dans l'embuscade, je n'ai pas vu ce qui se passait dans le village.

" Non plus, je ne puis constater si des Bachi-Bouzoucks ont pris part dans le pillage et le massacre des habitants.

" A 5 heures on nous a rassemblés près du village, d'où nous sommes rentrés à Vodena. On disait qu'on avait trouvé deux cadavres de Comitadjis : l'un dans le village, l'autre sur la colline ; mais moi, je ne les ai pas vus.

" On a réussi à s'emparer dans le village de trois fusils (deux Gras, un Mannlicher), un chapeau avec l'inscription ' Liberté ou mort,' une bombe et cinq manteaux appartenant aux Comitadjis."

Le gendarme Mehmed Ali ajoute :

"Étant resté toute la journée dans l'embuscade, j'ai vu au commencement de l'escarmouche six Comitadjis se réfugiant vers Monastir."

Le Mudir d'Ostrovo, Riza Effendi, déposa :

"Je me trouvais toute la journée du 11 Mars à Zervi pendant que les soldats agissaient contre les Comitadjis, qui, d'après mes renseignements, y étaient au nombre de soixante. Deux furent tués; les autres, grâce au brouillard, s'échappèrent. Il n'y avait point de Bachi-Bouzoucks sur place, et personne n'a pillé ni massacré. Tous les trente-quatre cadavres étaient victimes de bombes lancées par les Comitadjis. Les mêmes explosions ont produit l'incendie du village.

"Quant aux troupeaux emportés par les envahisseurs, comme l'on a dit, ce n'est qu'un mensonge. Il n'y a rien d'étonnant si les troupeaux, effrayés par les bombes, se sont dispersés dans les villages voisins. On prendra des mesures pour les restituer."

Le Lieutenant de Nizams, ainsi que celui de gendarmerie de Vodena, étaient absents pour cause de service. Quant au Capitaine de Gendarmerie du Caza, il se trouvait pendant l'événement dans les environs du village de Soubatsto, et ne pouvait pas être présent à Zervi.

(Signé) Colonel SVIRSKI.

(Translation.)

BY order of your Excellency I went on the 15th March to Zervi.

Warned by telegram, the Captain of the VIth Company, Ahmed Effendi, joined me at the station of Vodena. On leaving the train at Ostrovo, we proceeded immediately, on horseback, towards the village of Zervi, where we arrived at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

As soon as we entered the village we ascertained that it was utterly destroyed. Of forty-six houses which formed the village, there remained only six, half burnt and pillaged. The other forty, destroyed by fire, appeared to be ruins; the "konak" of a Bey alone had not been touched by the fire.

I met in this village ten Bulgarian villagers and a few women turning over apathetically the ashes of the houses in search of the bodies of their relations.

After having gone the round of the village, we made our way to the church, situated outside the village, where we were shown thirty-four corpses of the inhabitants of Zervi stretched out on the floor, among which were twenty-three men, nine women, and two children. The villagers fear that other victims are buried beneath the débris. Several bodies bore signs of brutal atrocities; I saw deep wounds caused by axe-blows, a head separated from the trunk, a dozen bodies charred by fire. The villagers present on the 11th March made the following deposition:—

"On Friday the 11th March, at daybreak, we were all awakened by numerous rifle shots fired from all sides. We who were up, running out of our houses, saw that the village was surrounded by soldiers and Mussulman Bashi-Bozouks, inhabitants of Oslovo. The latter, armed with rifles, axes, and even with bludgeons, approached from the east. Soon the houses fired by the Bashi-Bozouks began to burn. Pursued by bullets, we tried to escape. Women and children fell victims to the Bashi-Bozouks and to the maddened soldiers."

Riza Effendi, Mudir of Ostrovo, the only representative of the local Government, was an indifferent witness of all these barbarous excesses. I am even assured that he was himself the author of the attack. Towards 3 P.M. the Sous-Préfet of Vodena arrived in the village, which was now burning on all sides. He immediately took the measures necessary to prevent pillaging and to expel the assassins; he even seized with his own hands the rifle of a certain Abdul Karaman, inhabitant of Oslovo.

The villagers pointed out the following Mussulmans as assassins and pillagers of their property and flocks: Inhabitants of Oslovo—Ismaïl Zeinel, Arslan Ali Riza, Islam Trandjo, Abbas Houssein, Ghegha Halvadji, Djelil Moutcho; inhabitants of Ostrovo—Djorji Hussein, Ibrahim Roustem, Hussein Arab.

The inhabitants of Zervi abstain from giving exact information as to the supposed presence of sixty Komitajis, which is maintained by the authorities. I have only been able to state that on the morning of the 11th six Komitajis were present. It is

quite possible that the information collected by the Mudir is exaggerated. No body of a Komitaji has been found.

The villagers depose that they did not fire on the troops and Bashi-Bozouks for the simple reason that they had no arms.

The priest, Z. Stoyan, questioned as to the event, made the following deposition:

"On the evening of the 10th March six armed Komitajis, who arrived from the mountains, entered my house and threatened me with death if I did not offer hospitality. On the following day, when the village was surrounded, they took to flight as soon as they heard the rifle shots.

"One wounded man remained in my house and fired on the soldiers; he probably perished in the flames. The authorities did not, as they assert, request the inhabitants to leave their houses. Seeing the impossibility of remaining in the house, I and the women in it left. I was arrested by the soldiers. Being questioned as to whether there were any Komitajis in my house, I replied that there were no longer any there. I was severely beaten by the soldiers. I do not know whether there were any Komitajis in the other houses.

"The Bashi-Bozouks set fire to all the houses and pillaged the village in common with the soldiers.

"Of the inhabitants, those who succeeded in escaping took refuge at Ostrovo; the others, who could not do so, were killed. The Mudir, who was present during these disorders, took no steps whatever to prevent the damage being done; on the contrary, he gave orders to carry it out. The attack of the Mussulmans was his work.

"Among the thirty-four bodies in the church there is no Komitaji. We still have thirteen wounded men, who have been transported to Ostrovo. The priest is keeping in his house six orphans whose fathers and mothers were killed."

The gendarme Mehmed Salih, who was at Zervi on the 11th March, made the following deposition:—

"At 3 o'clock in the morning we began our march towards the village of Zervi with sixty "Nizamié" soldiers, headed by the gendarme Mehmed Ali and the sergeant Jellaleddin, and commanded by Lieutenant Ali Riza Effendi. The Mudir of Ostrovo followed the detachment. On nearing the village we were divided into two groups. One under Sergeant Jellaleddin surrounded the village on the south; the other, of which I formed part together with the gendarme Mehmed Ali, entered a defile situated to the west of the village in order to form an ambush on the same side as the hill which was situated to the north of the village and on which the Komitajis were supposed to be.

"Soon we heard numerous rifle shots. The soldiers were firing on the villagers and the latter were replying. A fog made it impossible to fix exactly the direction in which the firing was taking place. After some time we noticed our sergeant and three soldiers killed and three others wounded (?). Firing continued throughout the day. From time to time detonations were heard like the explosion of bombs.

"The whole village was in flames when, towards 3 P.M., the Sous-Préfet of Vodena arrived with our Lieutenant. Being still in ambush I was unable to see what passed in the village.

"Nor can I make a statement as to whether any Bashi-Bozouks took part in the pillage and massacre of the inhabitants.

"At 5 o'clock we fell in again near the village, and from there we returned to Vodena. It was said that the bodies of two Komitajis had been found, one in the village the other on the hill, but, personally, I did not see them.

"In the village we succeeded in capturing three rifles (two Gras and one Mannlicher), a hat with the inscription 'Liberty or death,' a bomb, and five coats belonging to the Komitajis."

The gendarme Mehmed Ali adds:—

"Having remained the whole day in ambush, I saw, at the beginning of the skirmish, six Komitajis fleeing towards Monastir."

The Mudir of Ostrovo, Riza Effendi, deposed as follows:—

"On the 11th March I spent the whole day at Zervi while the soldiers were acting against the Komitajis who, according to my information, were present to the number of 60. Two were killed; the others escaped, thanks to the fog. There were

no Bashi-Bozouks on the spot, nor did anyone pillage or massacre. All the thirty-four bodies were victims of the bombs thrown by the Komitajis. The same explosions set fire to the village.

"With regard to the animals said to have been removed by the attacking party, this is wholly untrue. One can hardly be surprised if the flocks, frightened by the bombs, strayed into the neighbouring villages. Measures will be taken to restore them to their owners."

The Lieutenant of Nizams, as well as the Lieutenant of the Vodena gendarmerie, were absent on official duty. With regard to the Captain of gendarmerie of the Kaza, he was, during these events, in the neighbourhood of the village of Soubatsto and could not be present at Zervi.

(Signed) SVIRSKI, *Colonel.*

No. 154.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 2, 1905.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 25th ultimo, inclosing a note from the Bulgarian Agent in London* relative to the negligence of the Ottoman authorities to take the proper steps to allow the Bulgarian refugees from the Vilayet of Adrianople to return to their villages, I have the honour to state that, acting on my instructions, Mr. Lamb spoke yesterday to the Grand Vizier on the subject.

His Highness entirely denied the correctness of M. Tzokow's statements, and declared that all the three points indicated on the frontier were open to those who desired to return, and that all the refugees were free to do so, save only such as might have been found guilty of some offence against established law. Ferid Pasha, however, gave instructions for a despatch to be sent to the Vali of Adrianople, calling his attention to the Bulgarian allegations and directing him to see that the terms of the Turco-Bulgarian Agreement were strictly carried out.

General Andréeff, the Bulgarian Commissioner appointed to discuss the settlement of various frontier questions with Hamdi Pasha, arrived here on the 29th ultimo.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 155.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Budget for the three Macedonian vilayets, which was given by the Austro-Hungarian Civil Agent to His Majesty's Consul at Salonica, and handed to me by the latter during his recent stay here.

Your Lordship will observe that the total expenditure of the three provinces is estimated at 246,717,523 piastres (2,242,886*l.*), of which 67,346,103 piastres (612,237*l.*) is for the Civil Administration, 36,023,802 piastres (327,489*l.*) is on account of the Public Debt, and 143,347,618 piastres (1,303,160*l.*) for military purposes, while the revenue is put at 178,309,909 piastres (1,620,999*l.*). The total deficit will thus be 68,407,614 piastres (621,887*l.*); but if the military expenditure were not a charge upon the local Budgets, there would be a surplus of 74,940,004 piastres (681,273*l.*).

The conversion into sterling is made at the rate of 110 piastres to 1*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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* No. 106.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Revenue.

	Salonica.	Kossovo.	Monastir.	The Three Vilayets.
	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Verghi (real property tax)	12,424,000	7,430,550	7,482,467	27,337,017
Temetuat (professional tax) ..	2,829,200	1,386,710	1,193,507	5,409,417
Bedel-i-Askeri (military exemption) ..	11,388,282	8,478,728	10,448,393	30,315,403
Agnam (sheep tax)	14,047,300	6,980,481	7,437,716	28,465,497
Djenaver (pig tax)	534,100	384,470	516,940	1,435,510
Tithes (farmed)	22,028,600	24,875,878	13,781,340	60,686,118
Tithe in Régie	415,500	28,871	1,684,995	2,129,366
Emlak-i-Mirié (domains)	127,200	69,140	238,478	434,818
Haivanat-i-Ehlié (domestic animals) ..	3,398,600	2,617,088	1,824,277	7,839,965
Roussoum-i-Mutencvia (taxes) ..	655,250	712,920	418,853	1,787,023
Forests	1,631,800	358,246	356,448	2,346,494
Mines	416,000	329,000	7,740	752,740
Tapou (title-deeds)	1,240,900	693,430	513,454	2,447,784
Judicial fees	860,600	460,788	482,754	1,804,142
Sundries (Agio, etc.)	1,787,000	1,647,079	1,684,536	5,118,615
	73,784,632	56,453,379	48,071,898	178,309,909

Balance.	Piastres.
Total revenues of three vilayets	178,309,909
Total expenditure (administration and military)	246,717,523
Deficit	68,407,614

	Piastres.		Piastres.
Total revenue	178,309,909	Total revenue	178,309,909
Administration expenses, including Dette Publique	103,369,905	Administration expenses, without Dette Publique	67,346,103
Surplus ..	74,940,004	Surplus ..	110,963,806

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Expenditure.

	Salonica.	Kossovo.	Monastir.	The Three Vilayets.
(A.)—Administrative outlays—	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Kadis (Sheria)	621,328	719,420	491,464	1,832,212
Administration	2,975,431	2,797,941	2,389,658	8,163,030
Courts of Justice	2,631,522	2,959,428	2,471,756	8,062,706
Public Works (salaries)	47,000	48,000	44,500	139,500
Financial Administration.. ..	1,951,008	1,661,279	1,277,685	4,889,972
Forest Administration	273,703	143,479	126,388	543,570
Mining	2,960	..	..	2,960
Compassionate allowances ..	434,633	473,789	213,582	1,122,004
Feudal commutations	388,392	..	177,583	565,975
Police..	1,236,476	1,072,240	580,810	2,889,526
Sanitary service	4,992	..	..	4,992
Gendarmerie	7,464,540	7,804,032	7,640,203	22,908,775
Soldiers' orphans	1,594,678	1,020,000	1,250,000	3,864,678
5 per cent. for public works ..	2,361,021	2,761,217	2,015,125	7,137,363
Tax collectors	1,525,200	1,100,400	1,064,400	3,690,000
Gendarmerie inspection	1,500,000	..	..	1,500,000
Sundries	28,840	..	..	28,840
Total (A)	25,041,724	22,561,225	19,743,154	67,346,103
(B.)—Dette Publique	26,564,400	1,700,000	7,759,402	36,023,802
Total (A) and (B) ..	..	..	..	103,369,905
(C.)—Military expenses—				
Pay	13,644,804	18,872,729	13,612,942	46,130,475
Maintenance	26,331,727	41,166,946	29,718,470	97,217,143
Total (C)	39,976,531	60,039,675	43,331,412	143,347,618
Grand totals	91,582,655	84,300,900	70,833,968	246,717,523

No. 156.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir, reporting recent outrages by Patriarchist bands in the Kaza of Kastoria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, April* 26, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following outrages committed by Patriarchist bands since the massacre at Zagorichani :—

On the 10th instant a Greek band entered the village of Zhuzheltsi, in the Kaza of Kastoria, and carried off eight Bulgarians, who were afterwards murdered.

On the 14th instant a party of eleven stonemasons, composed of ten men from Zhupanishta and one from Gabresh (both villages in the Kaza of Kastoria), while on their way to Larissa, were surrounded near Konsko, in the Kaza of Nasselich, by a band of twenty Greeks, who proceeded to pinion their captives and subsequently murdered seven of them. Of the remainder, two were carried away by the band, one was left seriously wounded, and one made good his escape. The band was led by an individual in Greek military uniform, whose appearance has been minutely described by one of his intended victims.

On the 23rd instant a Bulgarian baker, named Shatsoff, who, with his apprentice, was returning to Monastir from the neighbouring village of Tirnovo, was murdered by seven Patriarchists on the outskirts of the said village.

The Vali has informed me that these incidents are occupying the attention of the authorities, but his Excellency was unable to state whether any arrests had been effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

No. 157.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of the draft formula which has been agreed on between myself and my colleagues for the appointment of foreign Delegates to supervise the financial reforms in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 157.

MACEDONIAN FINANCIAL REFORMS.

Amended Provisions of Proposal regarding Appointment of Financial Delegates by the Four Powers.

POUR veiller à l'exécution des réformes financières et à l'application du Règlement qui précède, et en assurer l'observation, les Gouvernements . . . . nommeront chacun un Délégué Financier. Ces Délégués des quatre Puissances agiront de concert avec l'Inspecteur-Général et les Agents Civils Austro-Hongrois et Russe, dont les attributions ont été définies dans le programme de Mürzsteg.

La Commission ainsi formée aura tous les pouvoirs nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche, et notamment pour veiller à la perception régulière des taxes, y compris la dîme.

Avant de devenir définitifs, les Budgets devront être soumis à la Commission. Elle aura le droit de rectifier, dans le chapitre des recettes et des dépenses, les dispositions qui ne seraient pas conformes aux lois existantes ou ne répondraient point aux besoins économiques et financiers du pays.

En vue de faciliter sa mission, la Commission aura la faculté de nommer, pour chaque vilayet, un Inspecteur, chargé de la surveillance des Agents qui sont employés aux divers services du Fisc.

Le 8 *Mai*, 1905.

(Translation.)

TO supervise the execution of the financial reforms and the application of the preceding Regulation, and to insure its observation, the Governments will each nominate a financial Delegate. These Delegates of the four Powers will act in concert with the Inspector-General and the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Civil Agents, whose functions were defined in the Mürzsteg programme.

The Commission thus formed will have all the powers necessary for the accomplishment of its task, and particularly for the supervision of the regular collection of taxes, including also the tithe.

Before being finally settled, the budgets must be submitted to the Commission, which will have the right to amend, under the head of receipts and expenditure, any provision which may be inconsistent with the existing laws or unsuited to the economic and financial requirements of the country.

With a view to facilitating its task, the Commission will have the power of nominating for each vilayet an inspector charged with the supervision of the agents employed in the different services of the Treasury.

May 8, 1905.

No. 158.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Sophia, April* 27, 1905.

A MASS meeting was held in Sophia on Sunday last to protest against the action of the Greek bands in Macedonia and in the Adrianople Vilayet. Speeches were made calling on the Government to take more energetic action to prevent the gradual extermination of the Bulgarian element in the European provinces of Turkey, and accusing the Ottoman authorities of encouraging and protecting the Greek bands, and of using them for the purpose of compromising the success of the reforms.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of the Resolutions passed at the meeting, which have been communicated to the Diplomatic Agents here for transmission to their respective Governments.

Similar meetings were held and similar Resolutions were adopted in about a dozen other towns, at some of which the Government was urged to retaliate on the Greeks in Bulgaria by removing all functionaries of Greek origin from the public service.

According to the original programme, the Sophia meeting was to have been followed by a demonstration not only before the Greek, but also before the Austrian and Russian Agencies, as a protest against the manner in which the two Powers had discharged their mission in Macedonia. In consequence, however, of the steps taken by the Government to maintain order, this idea was abandoned, and the meeting passed off without any disturbance of the peace.

At Philippopolis, however, as your Lordship will see from the accompanying despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul in that town, a Greek coffee-house was wrecked and the windows of the Greek High School were smashed, though no acts of personal violence appear to have been committed. In a private letter which he has since addressed to me, Mr. Fontana states that the feeling against the Greeks is so bitter and so universal that it will be difficult for the Prefect to take vigorous action in the event of the occurrence of further and more serious disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Resolutions passed at Meeting held at Sophia on April 10, 1905.

(Translation.)

THIS 10th day of April, 1905, the citizens of the capital, assembled at a meeting to the number of more than 20,000, on account of the Greek atrocities in Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet, after having heard the speeches of MM. P. Pesheff, S. Babadjanoff, and Dr. P. N. Neicheff, and bearing in mind that—

The internal situation of Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet has become absolutely intolerable in consequence of the complete anarchy which reigns there; that the Turkish Government, in order to paralyze the execution of the Mürzsteg Reform Programme, is raising a quantity of obstacles to its application; and in order to free itself from all responsibility for the future, it deliberately raises a number of questions, and inculpates and persecutes without pity its own Bulgarian subjects. But this is not enough. From its systematic persecution in the past it has now proceeded to another and more extreme measure, namely, it has armed whole bands of Turks, Albanians, and Greeks, which, under the ægis of the military and local authorities, persecute and murder innocent women, old men and children. A proof of this is to be found in the latest occurrences in the villages of Zagorichani, Bobishta, Mokreni, Eleshtitsa (Kastoria), and Popovo (Adrianople Vilayet). In all these villages more than 200 women, old men and children were killed, and more than 100 houses burned. According to the Consular Reports, all these murders were done by Greek bands, with the silent co-operation of the Turkish authorities. This barbarous extermination of the Bulgarian element in Turkey does not cease even at a time when our kinsmen in Turkey have wholly entrusted their fate to the Great Powers, having laid aside their arms to wait patiently for the execution of the loudly-proclaimed reforms;

We have resolved as follows:—

1. We protest, in the most energetic terms, against the Turkish Government's systematic persecution of our kinsmen in Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet, their brutalities and massacres, the object of which is to obstruct the application of the reforms and to destroy our brothers in their own country.

2. We protest, in the most energetic terms, against the crimes and massacre of innocent women and children by the Greek bands of robbers, who evidently have the support of the Turkish troops and authorities.

3. It is with pain that we have to record the fact that our brothers the Serbs, instead of coming to the assistance of the sufferers, are themselves augmenting their troubles, and following in the wake of the Greeks.

4. In the name of humanity and justice we pray the Great Powers signatory to the Treaty of Berlin to put an end to the brutalities and anarchy in Turkey by extending the programme of reforms to complete autonomy for Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet.

5. We urgently beg the Bulgarian Government to abandon the fruitless and vacillating policy it has hitherto pursued, and firmly and boldly take steps to secure for our kinsmen in the European provinces of Turkey more humane and bearable conditions of life.

6. We call upon the entire Bulgarian nation not to refuse in the future its material and moral support to the pioneers of freedom.

The Committee have been empowered to submit the above Resolution to the Diplomatic Agents in Sophia and to the Bulgarian Government, so that it may be given the greatest possible publicity.

(Signed) V. AKYAMANDIEFF, *President.*
DIMITRI P. N. NEICHEFF, *Secretary.*
D. D. ANTRA,
P. PESHEFF,
S. BABADJANOFF, } *Members.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Fontana to Sir G. Buchanan.

Sir, *Philippopolis, April* 25, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that a large meeting of members of the Macedonian Committee and other Bulgarians was held in this town last Sunday afternoon. The questions to be discussed and the Resolutions to be adopted at the meeting were translated from a Bulgarian pamphlet and published in a local Greek newspaper two days before the meeting took place. An extract translation of the pamphlet in question is inclosed herewith.

The principal speakers were MM. C. Popoff and V. Bankoff, leading members of the branch of the Committee at Philippopolis. Soon after the meeting was dissolved some fifteen of its members appeared in the main street armed with axes and sticks, and went to the "Acropolis," a café kept by a Hellenic subject and frequented by Greeks. They smashed all the marble tables, mirrors, and the other furniture with their axes, and wrecked the place. I visited the café yesterday and saw the wreckage. The raiders seem to have consumed some twenty minutes in their work of destruction, two or three policemen looking on from outside. They took some money from the till, and went next door to a Greek wine-shop stocked with bottles and casks. They helped themselves to various liquors, and then smashed all the bottles and casks they could lay hands on. The shop ran with wine and bad cognac. They rifled the till and crossed the street to the café of the Hôtel Métropole, and did some little damage, but M. C. Popoff, who was there, sent them away before much harm was done. They next started for the Greek High School, followed by a large crowd, and on their way encountered the cavass of the Greek Consulate-General, who jumped into a cab and drove rapidly away, pursued with hooting and invective. On arriving at the High School they broke over eighty window-panes with stones, and made a great deal of noise. Some gendarmes and police eventually arrived upon the scene and arrested five of the brawlers, one of whom was an exciseman. Some three hours after the disturbance had ceased a squadron of cavalry arrived and paraded the town.

Yesterday morning some Bulgarians entered the printing-house of the Greek paper before referred to and threw the type about, but did no other damage. The establishment has now been closed.

No one was hurt or even hustled, as far as I can learn, and the *mot d'ordre* seems to have been injury to property, but not to individuals. The authorities were warned beforehand, both by the Greek Consul-General and by others, that anti-Greek rioting was apprehended subsequent to the meeting, but, in spite of assurances, no adequate measures were taken to prevent trouble. It is feared that further anti-Greek manifestations will occur during the Orthodox Easter, and the Greek school has closed before its time.

The news of the attacks by Greek bands in Macedonia upon Bulgarian villagers, as published in the local papers, kindles keen indignation and resentment against the Greeks of this district, who, nevertheless, contribute, as reported, to local committee funds; and, should those attacks continue, injury to persons, as well as to property, may mark the second stage of Bulgarian indignation, and bloodshed the third.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RAPHAEL A. FONTANA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

Extract from Bulgarian Pamphlet.

(Translation.)

TO-DAY, the 10th April, 1905, the inhabitants of Philippopoli will hold a meeting of 5,000 persons to consider what steps are to be taken in view of the Greco-Turkish atrocities perpetrated on the defenceless Bulgarian population of Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet. . . . .

Let us resolve:

1. To protest against the Turkish atrocities committed on the defenceless Bulgarian population of Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet, calling at the same time on the

public opinion of enlightened Europe to force their Governments to obtain the immediate application of complete autonomy for Macedonia and the Adrianople Vilayet.

2. To insist that the Bulgarian Government shall intervene energetically for the protection of our compatriots, counting upon the support of the whole Bulgarian people.

3. To express from the bottom of our hearts our contempt for the degenerate Greek nation, which has declared itself the cowardly supporter of the Turkish tyranny; and we invite the Bulgarian Government to make all legal reprisals against that nation.

4. To send our greetings to our brothers who are fighting in Macedonia and the Adrianople Province, who proudly and worthily defend the rights of the oppressed fatherland.

No. 159.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Tzokow.

THE Marquess of Lansdowne presents his compliments to M. Tzokow, and, with reference to their conversation of the 19th April and M. Tzokow's letter of the following day, has the honour to inform him that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the complaint of the Bulgarian Government that obstacles were being placed in the way of the repatriation of refugees belonging to the Vilayet of Adrianople.

The Grand Vizier declared in reply that all the three points indicated on the frontier were open to those who desired to return, save only such as might have been found guilty of some offence against established law. His Highness, however, said he would send instructions to the Vali of Adrianople calling his attention to the complaint, and directing him to see that the terms of the Turco-Bulgarian Agreement were strictly carried out.

His Majesty's Ambassador has further reported that General Andréeff, the Bulgarian Commissioner appointed to discuss the settlement of these questions, arrived at Constantinople on the 29th April.

Foreign Office, May 12, 1905.

No. 160.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 13.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May* 9, 1905.

THE anti-Greek agitation, on which I reported in my despatch of the 27th ultimo, still continues, and further meetings have been held to protest against the crimes committed by the Greek bands, and against the support which, as is asserted, is given to them by the Turkish authorities.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of the Resolution passed at a meeting held at Plevna on the 18th April (1st May), copies of which have been communicated to the Diplomatic Agents at Sophia.

A similar meeting was held at Bourgas on the 2nd instant, and it was at one moment feared that an attempt would be made to take forcible possession of the Greek monastery near Anchialos, in the Bourgas district, on the following Saturday, St. George's Day. The Greek colony at that port had, indeed, already taken steps to resist such an attempt by arms, but, thanks to the precautionary steps taken by the Government, the idea was abandoned, and the day passed off without any disturbance.

With the solitary exception of the damage done to Greek property at Philippopolis, the agitation has so far been confined to the denunciation of the Greeks and their methods at public meetings, and to an attempt in certain localities to boycott all Greek traders and shopkeepers. The Government, I think, deserves credit for having succeeded in keeping the movement within these limits, and for having in its official organs in the press called on all Bulgarians to abstain from any acts of violence against their Greek fellow citizens, who could in no way be held responsible for the crimes committed in Macedonia: a resort to such acts, it was pointed out, could not fail to lower Bulgaria in the estimation of Europe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 160.

Resolution.

(Translation.)

THIS day, the 18th April, 1905, the citizens of Plevna, assembled to the number of over 5,000 at a meeting held on account of the Turkish acts of brutality and the barbarous cruelties of the Greeks in Macedonia, after hearing the speeches of MM. T. Karaivanoff, S. P. Ivanoff, Dr. N. Yuroukoff, C. Dakasheff, and Ivan C. Racheff, and bearing in mind that—

1. The internal situation in Macedonia is absolutely intolerable and in the highest degree unbearable;

2. That Greek bands, assisted by the Turkish authorities with the object of arresting the rapid development of the Macedonian question and of preventing a settlement of it, are sowing the seeds of demoralization in the country, and, by lies, false accusations, and barbarous cruelties, are arousing national jealousies so as to excite the population and prepare the way for the partition of Macedonia; and

3. That the Turkish Government has taken leave of its senses owing to its internal and external weakness; that this Government, in order to weaken and crush a population which has awakened to consciousness and which is struggling for a life of freedom, and in order to convince the world that the situation in Macedonia, owing to the bloody intestine strife, is thoroughly bad, that the Christian population is incapable of governing itself, and that autonomous government would mean the introduction of complete anarchy—therefore not only deliberately raises a number of "affaires," systematically hunts down and persecutes its own Bulgarian subjects, but has armed large bands of robbers composed of Turks, Albanians, and Greeks, which, under the protection of the troops and local authorities, persecute and kill innocent women, old men, and children;

We have resolved that:—

1. We protest most energetically against the Turkish Government for their systematic hunting down and persecution of the Bulgarians in Macedonia, for its brutal massacres, the object of which is to prevent the application of the reforms and to strangle and destroy our kinsmen in Macedonia.

2. We earnestly protest against the crimes of the Greek bands, which, evidently with the support of the Turkish troops and authorities, massacre innocent Bulgarian women and children, and, at their instigation, burn large Bulgarian villages.

3. In the name of humanity and justice we pray the Powers interested in the work of reform in Macedonia to put an end to the anarchy in that country by granting it complete autonomy.

4. We desire from the Bulgarian Government that it should intervene and should intimate in the proper quarter, that if this cruel treatment of the Bulgarians in Macedonia (who are like veritable pariahs) continues, then the worst disturbances will follow in Macedonia, such as have already made life impossible, not only for our kinsmen, but for all the European subjects living there.

5. We sincerely call upon the leaders of the Macedonian movement to unite and simultaneously begin the struggle against all those who prevent the rapid settlement of the Macedonian question.

6. We appeal to the free Bulgarian nation to give in the future, as in the past, its material and moral support to the apostles and pioneers of Macedonian freedom.

7. We express most sincerely and gratefully our thanks to all the European foreigners who have helped and strengthened, both morally and materially, the sacred cause of Macedonian freedom.

8. We ask the Bulgarian Government to dismiss all Greek officials in Government or municipal service.

The Committee have been authorized to submit this Resolution to the Consuls of the Powers in Sophia, and to the Bulgarian Government, in order to give it the greatest publicity.

Plevna, April 18, 1905.

(Here follow signatures of President, Secretary, and members.)

No. 161.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 4, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, reporting on encounters with bands and other events which took place during the last month in that vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

(Extract.) *Uskub, April 30, 1905.*

I BEG to report the following events which have taken place during the past month, in addition to those reported separately:—

On the 11th a triangular conflict took place between a Bulgarian band of eighty under Shivarof, a Servian band of twenty-five under Tranko, and some gendarmes at Mokreni in the Kiuprulu Kaza.

The Servian leader sent a message to the Bulgarian chief at Rahovdol proposing that they should join forces. The Bulgarians thereupon moved over to attack them. The Servians then attempted to escape, and were fired upon by a chance patrol of four gendarmes, who retired after losing one man killed. A conflict lasting several hours then ensued, in which the Servians lost one wounded and the Bulgarians one killed.

The most important encounter, however, occurred on the 15th instant at Deramtzé in the Osmanié Kaza. The facts are as follows:—

A new priest had been appointed, a native of Oriza, who was distasteful to the villagers, who called in a band. The members of the latter, after ill-treating the man, ordered the villagers to bury him alive, which was done. The leader of the band, being dissatisfied with the food given him, afterwards showed his true colours, and began to ill-treat the villagers, one of whom then gave information to the nearest military post. In the conflict which ensued the nineteen komitajis were annihilated. I am told that 20,000 rounds were fired to achieve this end, many of the Komitajis being riddled with bullets. The troops lost one man killed and one wounded. The corpses were immediately stripped to the skin by the soldiers, but the under-garments were replaced on the remonstrances of the Austrian officer, Captain Urban, who happened to be passing on his way from Kochana to Osmanié, and was present during a portion of the affair.

On the same date an encounter occurred between Ratovitsa and Drach (Kratova) in which a Bulgarian band of eight lost six killed, and the troops one wounded.

About the 26th four Servian Komitajis appeared at the Bulgarian village of Oblavtsi (Koumanova). A passing detachment came up and finally killed one and captured the remainder. A miller who joined them in firing on the troops was badly wounded.

On the 27th a wedding party of fifteen Mussulmans, escorted by fifteen soldiers, who were on their way from Kratova to a village in the Kochana Kaza, were ambushed between Raichani and Suilanova by a band of twenty-five Komitajis. In the conflict which ensued the band lost nineteen killed, while the troops had five killed and three wounded, and the bashi-bozouks one killed and two wounded.

About the 30th three Komitajis were killed in an encounter with troops near Drenik.

I inclose herewith a list showing the murders committed during the past month.

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

List of Murders in Kossovo Vilayet—April.

Date.	Name and Nationality.	Place.	Remarks.
Mar. 29	Nikola Petroff	Teartzé	By Shemo Khisir, Albanian brigand of Treboush. Kalkandelen. He also mortally wounded Misail of Treboush, and held to ransom the inhabitants of Rahotintzé
	Bogdan Dabalovski ..	Osornishta	
April 5	One Bulgar	Gradishta	By persons unknown.
„ 6	Kotzé Kotzeff	Kochana	By a soldier.
„ 10	A Turk	Tabanofché	By Servian Komitajis.
	Two Serbs	Kuchevista	By Moslems.
„ 11	Two Bulgars	Liubantza	By Albanian outlaw Feizo, son of Aidin of Liubetin and Aziz of Rashdak. One was a child of seven, who was terribly mutilated.
	A Serb	Bektashli-Bala	Native of Chetirtzé, supposed to be member of band which appeared at Tabanofché.
„ 12	Pano and Kosté.. ..	Granchista	By persons unknown, while returning from vineyards. A third, named Manché, was wounded.
	Moustafa	Menliché	Killed in quarrel by one Ahmed, who has been arrested.
	Sheikh Veli	Vertok	Sheikh Ibrahim was wounded. Bulgarian priest, ex-mukhtar, and five other Bulgars arrested on suspicion.
	Jemal, son of Ahmed of Kuseli	Near Shahin Tash ..	Presumably by Bulgar named Yorghé, with whom he went to count sheep. N.B.—These four crimes were reported in local paper of the 12th.
„ 14	Two Serbs	Near Kutchevista ..	The man and his child of eight were killed at sheep-folds by authors of Liubantza crime.
	One Serb	Mirkovtzé	By authors of above crime.
„ 19	One Bulgar	Gorna Vodua	By persons unknown.
	Kocho	Nogaiefché	Presumably by one Panché, a fellow villager.
	Ali	Guzeljé Cheshmé ..	Ambushed by Komitajis on Strumnitza-Osmanié road.
„ 19	Tahir, Zebir, and wife of Idris	Silanché	These two Albanian outlaws killed one another in a quarrel. The woman was killed by accident. N.B.—The above three crimes were reported in local paper of the 19th.
„ 23	A Moslem, "Kehaza" ..	Dzhidimir	By persons unknown.
	One Bulgar	Kadi Keni	By Komitajis, who demanded money, and, in default, that he should join them.
„ 25	Risto Petko	Dumanofché	By Albanians.
	One Moslem and one Christian	Boyanofché	Wounded by persons unknown.
„ 28	Lazo Yorgovich ..	Chucher	By Moslems.
	One Serb	Dumanofché	By Moslems, who have again been attempting to force villagers to embrace Islam.
„ 30	One Moslem and one Christian	Near Gureler	By Komitajis.
	Two Moslems	Semenishta	Killed each other in a quarrel.

N.B.—The dates given are those on which the events came to my knowledge.

H. E. S

No. 162.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1905.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copies of the note and its inclosure which the six Ambassadors addressed to the Porte, and which was presented yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the first Dragoman of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy.

Your Lordship will observe that the note states that our acceptance of the Agreement of the 7th March last, with reference to the financial administration of Macedonia, between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the Imperial Ottoman Bank, depends upon the Imperial Government's acceptance of our present supplementary proposals.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Note addressed to Porte by Foreign Ambassadors respecting Financial Reforms in Macedonia.

LES soussignés Ambassadeurs d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Russie, d'Allemagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, de France, et d'Italie ont l'honneur d'informer le Gouvernement Impérial qu'ils ont examiné le projet de Règlement arrêté à la date du 22 Février, 1320 (7 Mars, 1905), entre la Sublime Porte et la Banque Impériale Ottomane, sur le mode d'encaissement et de paiement des recettes et des dépenses des trois Vilayets de Salonique, Cossovo et Monastir.

D'ordre de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, les Ambassadeurs se déclarent prêts à donner leur adhésion au dit projet, à condition toutefois qu'il soit complété par les dispositions ci-jointes.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne méconnaîtra pas le but poursuivi par les Puissances. Elles ne désirent qu'une chose : assurer d'accord avec lui le bon fonctionnement des services financiers des trois vilayets. Elles ont la ferme confiance que la Sublime Porte acceptera loyalement ce complément nécessaire au Règlement du 7 Mars, de façon à rendre définitive la solution de graves difficultés.

Le 8 Mai, 1905.

(Translation.)

THE undersigned Ambassadors of Austria-Hungary, Russia, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Italy have the honour to inform the Imperial Government that they have examined the draft scheme, drawn up on the 22nd February (7th March), 1905, by the Sublime Porte and the Imperial Ottoman Bank, respecting the manner of collecting and paying the receipts and expenses of the three vilayets of Salonica, Kossovo, and Monastir.

Acting on the instructions of their respective Governments, the Ambassadors announce that they are prepared to accept the above-mentioned scheme, on condition, however, that it shall be completed by the annexed provisions.

The Imperial Government will not fail to recognize the aim which the Powers have in view. They desire but one thing: to guarantee, in concert with the Porte, the regular working of the financial administration of the three vilayets. They are firmly convinced that the Sublime Porte will loyally accept this necessary addition to the scheme of the 7th March, in order that a definite solution of serious difficulties may be reached.

May 8, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Annex to Foreign Ambassadors' Note, dated May 8, 1905.

POUR veiller à l'exécution des réformes financières et à l'application du Règlement qui précède, et en assurer l'observation, les Gouvernements . . . . nommeront chacun un Délégué financier. Ces Délégués des quatre Puissances agiront de concert avec l'Inspecteur-Général et les Agents Civils Austro-Hongrois et Russe, dont les attributions ont été définies dans le programme de Mürzsteg.

La Commission ainsi formée aura tous les pouvoirs nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche, et notamment pour veiller à la perception régulière des taxes, y compris la dîme.

Avant de devenir définitifs, les budgets devront lui être soumis. Elle aura le droit de rectifier dans les chapitres des recettes et des dépenses les dispositions qui ne seraient pas conformes aux lois existantes ou ne répondraient point aux besoins économiques et financiers du pays.

En vue de faciliter sa mission la Commission aura la faculté de nommer, pour chaque vilayet, un Inspecteur chargé de la surveillance des Agents qui y sont employés aux divers services du Fisc.

(Translation.)

TO supervise the execution of the financial reforms and the application of the preceding Regulation, and to insure its observation, the Governments will each nominate a financial Delegate. These Delegates of the four Powers will act in concert with the Inspector-General and the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Civil Agents, whose functions were defined in the Mürzsteg programme.

The Commission thus formed will have all the powers necessary for the accomplishment of its task, and particularly for the supervision of the regular collection of taxes, including also the tithe.

Before being finally settled, the budgets must be submitted to the Commission, which will have the right to amend, under the head of receipts and expenditure, any provision which may be inconsistent with the existing laws or unsuited to the economic and financial requirements of the country.

With a view to facilitating its task, the Commission will have the power of nominating for each vilayet an inspector charged with the supervision of the agents employed in the different services of the Treasury.

No. 163.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 9, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting the appearance of a Greek band composed of eighty armed men near Nigrita, some 14 kilom. south of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that I am informed by the British Vice-Consul at Serres that an armed band of eighty Greeks has made its appearance in the mountains near Nigrita in the southern portion of the Kaza of Serres. It is thought probable that they may have landed on the Cassandra promontory and made their way through the mountains of Chalcidicé into the Serres district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 164.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 9, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir, reporting that atrocities have been committed

by a Greek band on the inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Laghen, about 8 kilom. south of Florina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, May* 5, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to information supplied to me from a trustworthy source, the Bulgarian village of Laghen (8 kilom. south of Florina) was, on the 2nd instant, attacked by a band of about sixty Greeks in Evzon uniform, who took up a position on the mountain slope commanding the village, and for two hours "sniped" at the inhabitants without doing any damage. Six villagers, however, who had been unable to reach shelter in time, were espied hiding near a spring, and thereupon a body of the brigands proceed to attack them, with the result that, out of these six defenceless persons, a man of 47, a youth of 18, a boy of 12, and a girl of 8 were murdered, and the remaining two, a boy of 13 and a girl of 8 (the daughter of the first-mentioned victim) were seriously wounded.

In the meantime a detachment of thirty soldiers was descried approaching from Neret (where they had done to death two unarmed Bulgarians "wanted" by the authorities on suspicion of being connected with the Revolutionary Committee), and the Greeks therefore retired behind the mountain crest without any attempt at pursuit on the part of the soldiers.

The following day Captain Castoldi proceeded to Laghen and brought away with him the wounded girl, whom he has now sent to Monastir to have her leg amputated. He had been preceded by the Kaïmakam and Kadri Bey, commanding the gendarmerie at Florina, who had already left the village without taking any measures for the treatment of the wounded, but had, according to the villagers, compelled the Kojabashi to sign a document affirming that the troops had had an engagement with the Greek band.

Captain Castoldi informs me that Kadri Bey, besides being a worthless fellow, is entirely under the influence of the Greek Metropolitan of Florina, and, when appealed to for protection by the Bulgarian villagers, tells them that, if they wish to escape destruction, they must become Patriarchists, a piece of advice which on one occasion evoked the reply that they would do so when Kadri Bey became a Christian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

No. 165.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 9, 1905.

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions I again spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday in the sense of your Lordship's despatch of the 1st instant respecting the apathy and apparent indifference shown by the local authorities in neglecting to take even ordinary precautions to guard against the incursion of the Greek bands who threatened and ultimately attacked and destroyed the village of Zagorichani.

I said that, unless the Government inflicted exemplary punishment on the officials to whose misconduct the outrages were, in great measure, due, a very heavy responsibility would fall upon the Imperial Government.

I added that I made these representations under direct instructions from your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 166.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 11, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Dedeagatch, reporting on certain crimes committed in that district by Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Vice-Consul Missir to Consul Eyres.

Sir, *Dédéagatch, le 7 Mai, 1905.*

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Dans la nuit du 2 Mai, à Ferridjik (dépendance de Dédéagatch), quelques insurgés Bulgares ont grièvement blessé un Musulman et son domestique pour leur avoir refusé la nourriture.

On a reconnu que ces malfaiteurs étaient des habitants de notre district.

Le 4 courant, un crime politique a été commis par des villageois Bulgares de Yenikeuy.

Ces derniers se sont présentés à la demeure du nommé Simidji Stoyanoglou Thodori, ex-Mouktar de 1904, et l'ont invité à sortir dans la rue. Là, ils l'ont massacré, séparant la tête du tronc.

Sa femme et sa fille étant accourues, la première a eu la tête tranchée, et la seconde a été grièvement blessée.

Le mobile du crime est la vengeance, car il semble que Stoyanoglou avait signalé à l'autorité les habitants de Yenikeuy comme faisant partie du Comité Macédonien.

Plusieurs arrestations ont eu lieu.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. A. MISSIR.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Dedeagatch, May 7, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you of the following :—

On the night of the 2nd May, at Ferrijik (a dependency of Dedeagatch), some Bulgarian insurgents seriously wounded a Mussulman and his servant for having refused them food.

It has been established that these malefactors were inhabitants of our district.

On the 4th instant a political crime was committed by some Bulgarian villagers of Yenikeuy.

The latter presented themselves at the house of the man named Simidji Stoyanoglou Thodori, ex-Muktar of 1904, and summoned him to come out into the street. Here they murdered him, severing his head from his body.

On his wife and daughter running up, the former had her head cut off, and the latter was seriously wounded.

The motive of the crime is vengeance, for it appears that Stoyanoglou had denounced the inhabitants of Yenikeuy to the authorities as forming part of the Macedonian Committee.

Several arrests were made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. MISSER.

No. 167.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 13, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in reply to my inquiry as to the result of the Inspector-General's investigation of the outrages committed at Kuklitch, His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica informs me that four Bashi-Bozouks have been

condemned to one year's imprisonment each, and three others to six months, while a Major and two Lieutenants are to be tried by court-martial.

A Commission of officers, presided over by General Mustapha Hilmi Pasha, which is to inquire into the alleged laxity of military discipline, has been sent into Macedonia, but Mr. Graves has as yet nothing to report as to the results it has achieved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 168.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 17, 1905.

THE Greek Minister made to me to-day a statement to the following effect:—

He had been instructed by the Greek Government to assure me that they were doing all they could to prevent Macedonian refugees in Greece from crossing the frontier to go to the assistance of their brethren whose lives and property had been for years past exposed to the vexatious proceedings of the Bulgarian Committees.

In spite of all their efforts, a certain number of refugees, by crossing the frontier in small bands, had succeeded in evading the watchfulness of the frontier authorities, but strict orders had been issued for redoubled vigilance. From the commencement of the agitation in Macedonia the Greek Government had maintained a correct attitude, trusting in the work undertaken by the Great Powers. Not only had they never deviated from this attitude, but they were still giving their most sincere support to everything that could contribute towards assuring a better lot to the Greeks in Macedonia. They considered it, however, their duty to observe that if the Greek element in Macedonia continued to be in a state of unrest, it was because the activity of the Bulgarian Committees, far from abating, increased daily in intensity. As soon as the proceedings of these Committees were brought to an end, the unrest among the Macedonian Greeks would certainly cease of itself. The Great Powers would, therefore, be performing useful work in devising means to stop the activity of the Bulgarian Committees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 169.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 18.)

(Extract.) *Athens, May* 10, 1905.

THE suggestion of His Majesty's Government, conveyed in your Lordship's telegram to the Embassies of the 26th ultimo, that the Representatives of the Powers at Athens should call the attention of the Greek Government to the smuggling of arms into Macedonia from Volo, and should urge them to take effective steps to put a stop to it, has been some time in bearing fruit. The German and Italian Ministers were the first to receive their instructions, and acted on them at the Minister for Foreign Affairs' reception on the 3rd instant; the French Minister was prevented by illness from seeing him that day, but has since done so; the Austro-Hungarian Minister has received no instructions, and thinks it probable that, as he has made many representations to a similar effect, his Government prefers not to weaken the force of them by iteration.

I myself called on M. Skouzès on the 7th instant, and told him I had now been instructed to speak in the sense of what I had already said to him ten days before. I also (as several of my colleagues did) mentioned the case of Lieutenant Manos, whose connection with the formation of bands cast, I thought, a peculiar responsibility on the Greek Government, considering his official position.

M. Skouzès said that M. Manos was no longer an aide-de-camp of the Minister of War, who, in order to have him under stricter control, had appointed him some days ago to the cavalry school (a measure, I remarked, which appeared to have been singularly unsuccessful). He had then applied for leave to go abroad, and the Government had no knowledge of his being in Thessaly. In several cases the names of officers had been given to him by the Turkish Minister as being occupied in raising bands, but

on inquiry they had been shown not to have left their posts. I said there was a consensus of evidence, derived from other than Turkish sources, to the effect that Manos has been superintending the organization of bands, and it behoved the Greek Government to make inquiries.

With regard to the smuggling of arms, M. Skouzès said he disbelieved the statement that there had been anything like a general connivance on the part of the authorities. No doubt among the number there might be some who sympathized with the movement more than others, and who had not fulfilled their duties with as much energy as might be desirable, but there had been no general neglect of them. I said I feared he had been misinformed, and suggested that inquiry should be set on foot, and an example made of any officials who might be found in fault.

No. 170.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 12, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo relative to the powers of the foreign gendarmerie officers in Macedonia, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the British Staff Officer respecting the right of the foreign officers to enter prisons. This result is, to a certain extent, satisfactory, but the Inspector-General seems disinclined to give definite orders that all matters of which any Ottoman gendarmerie officers have official cognizance are to be communicated by them to the foreign officers.

Colonel Fairholme lays stress on the importance of these two points, and as he had written to me privately asking for my support in connection with them, I directed Mr. Lamb to draw the Grand Vizier's attention to Colonel Fairholme's complaints. Mr. Lamb accordingly called on Ferid Pasha yesterday, and in reply to his representations his Highness sent a telegram to Hilmi Pasha which he said would produce the results desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

Colonel Fairholme to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Drama, May 9, 1905.*

INCLOSED in my despatch of the 14th April last I transmitted to your Excellency a copy of a letter I had addressed to General Degiorgis asking him to obtain from the Inspector-General the recognition of certain principles connected with the function of the foreign gendarmerie officers, to which I attach great importance, especially the right to enter the prisons in order to supervise the performance of whatever duties in connection with those establishments are assigned to members of the gendarmerie force.

Owing to indisposition, Hilmi Pasha has been unable to deal with this matter before, and I have only just received from General Degiorgis his Excellency's answer, of which I inclose a translation. I also have the honour to transmit a copy of the reply which I have addressed to General Degiorgis.

Your Excellency will perceive that I have obtained from Hilmi Pasha for the first time what amounts to an admission of the right of the foreign officers to enter the prisons, though he affects to be under the impression that the duties of the gendarmerie in connection with the prisons are confined to preventing the escape of prisoners.

In the smaller prisons in the kazas such is by no means the case, as the entire management of those prisons is in the hands of the gendarmerie.

My contention is that in such cases the foreign officers should supervise the interior economy as well as the measures for security, but so long as they are admitted at all we have some check on the irregularities and abuses which have without doubt been prevalent.

As I have already informed your Excellency, the administration of prisons in this country is in urgent need of reform, and I venture to suggest that perhaps now

that, as I understand, new measures of control are under consideration, something might perhaps be done in this direction.

There exist prison regulations issued provisionally on the 28th May, 1880, which, if carried out, would meet the case, but unfortunately they are a dead-letter.

Prisoners sentenced to five years' hard labour and over are supposed to be sent to penal settlements at Rhodes, Tripoli, &c., but perhaps owing to the expense of their transport, they are generally left to undergo even the longest sentences at the sanjak prisons, which are not constructed for convicts and where there are no facilities for hard labour. They pass their time in idleness and are allowed to associate freely with the other inmates of the prison and even with the public (through the bars).

Accused and condemned of all classes, who are supposed to be detained in separate buildings (Tewkifhané and Habishané), are promiscuously crowded together in the same rooms.

Although work is supposed to be organized for all prisoners undergoing sentence, except first-class misdemeanants and those who pay for their own food, none whatever is done.

There are no restrictions as regards purchase of luxuries, smoking, coffee, &c.

Thus it may be asserted that punishment, as we understand it, does not exist, and little, if any, disgrace, in the public opinion, attaches to imprisonment.

In addition to the above, I am satisfied that a number of petty irregularities are prevalent on the part of the warders, whose pay is utterly inadequate, and who are not properly supervised.

The prison buildings are far too small and are in every respect unsuited for their purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME, *Colonel,*
British Staff Officer in Macedonia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

Hilmi Pasha to General Degiorgis Pasha.

(Translation.)

Excellence, *Le* 20 *Avril*, 321.

VOTRE lettre du 17 Avril, 321, à laquelle était jointe une copie de lettre officielle que M le Colonel Fairholme, Adjoint Militaire d'Angleterre, vous avait envoyée, a été étudiée. Les devoirs des officiers étrangers se trouvant au service du Gouvernement Impérial avaient été définis d'une manière précise entre la Sublime Porte et les Ambassades lors de leur séjour à Constantinople. Les essences et les détails en sont connus par votre Excellence. Les officiers étrangers peuvent toujours inspecter et se rendre compte si les officiers et les soldats de la gendarmerie Ottomane, chargés de la protection des prisons, exécutent ou non régulièrement leurs devoirs. Les autorités locales, qui ont jadis reçu à cet effet des ordres précis et définis, ne suscitent aucune difficulté aux officiers étrangers pour l'accomplissement de ce devoir d'inspection, mais si ces derniers examinent la marche intérieure des prisons, les causes et dates des arrêtés, les procédés législatifs et de justice qu'on leur fait subir, et s'ils les interrogent à ce propos, les fonctionnaires Ottomans sont obligés de ne point satisfaire ni permettre ces sortes d'enquêtes, attendu que ces cas ne concernent pas les officiers étrangers et n'ont pas trait aux officiers de la gendarmerie.

En date du 30 Juillet, 320, il avait été écrit aux trois vilayets Impériaux sous quels rapports les officiers Ottomans étaient obligés de donner des instructions et des explications et quels enregistrements et documents ils étaient obligés de leur présenter.

Un exemplaire—de ces mêmes Circulaires—daté du 30 Juillet, 320, avait été adressé à votre Excellence en annexe avec une lettre.

Cette réponse vous a été écrite pour vous informer de l'impossibilité de l'explication, dans de termes plus développés, des devoirs dévolus aux officiers étrangers ainsi que de l'exécution des communications conformes.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) HILMI HUSSEIN.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *April* 20, 1905.

YOUR letter of the 17th instant, inclosing copy of an official letter transmitted to you by Colonel Fairholme, the British Adjoint, has been considered. The duties of

the foreign officers in the service of the Imperial Government had been defined in a precise manner by the Sublime Porte and the Ambassadors while they were at Constantinople. The main features and the details of these duties are known to your Excellency. The foreign officers can always carry out inspections, with a view to ascertaining whether the officers and soldiers of the Ottoman gendarmerie, intrusted with the guarding of prisons, are carrying out their duties with regularity or not. The local authorities, who previously received explicit and definite orders to this effect, have placed no difficulties in the way of the foreign officers in the accomplishment of this duty of inspection. If, however, the officers examine the internal administration of the prisons, the causes why, and dates when, people have been arrested, the proceedings taken against them, both under administrative order and in the ordinary course of justice, and if they examine them for this purpose, the Ottoman officers are, in such cases, obliged not to satisfy or allow such inquiries, since these cases do not concern the foreign officers, and are not connected with the gendarmerie officers.

On the 30th July, 1904, the three Imperial vilayets were informed of the circumstances under which the Ottoman officers were obliged to give instructions and furnish explanations, and what registrations and documents they were obliged to submit to the foreign officers.

A copy of these Circulars, dated the 30th July, 1904, formed the inclosure in a letter addressed to your Excellency.

This reply has been written to you to inform you of the impossibility of explaining, in more extended terms, the duties which have devolved upon the foreign officers, and of making communications accordingly.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) HILMI HUSSEIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 170.

Colonel Fairholme to General Degiorgis Pasha.

Votre Excellence, *Drama, le 8 Mai*, 1905.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 6 Mai, 1905, et de la réponse de l'Inspecteur-Général, au sujet des fonctions des officiers étrangers.

Je me suis toujours bien gardé de réclamer pour ces derniers le contrôle dans les prisons des fonctionnaires Ottomans n'appartenant pas à la gendarmerie, et je n'ai insisté que sur leur droit de contrôler la manière dont le personnel de la gendarmerie exécute les services de toute nature qui leur sont confiés dans les prisons.

Je suis très content d'apprendre par la lettre de Hilmi Pacha que son Excellence admet ceci, et je dois donc croire que c'était par malentendu que les officiers Ottomans de la gendarmerie à Cavalla, Sarichaban, et Pravishta ont dit à mes officiers dans ces endroits qu'ils avaient reçu l'ordre que l'entrée dans les prisons était défendue aux officiers étrangers, et j'espère que son Excellence aura fait les démarches nécessaires pour rectifier cette erreur.

Je prends donc note que le droit d'entrée aux prisons pour le contrôle du service de la gendarmerie est reconnu aux officiers étrangers, et en notifiant ceci à mes officiers j'aurai soin de leur enjoindre de ne pas aller au delà de leurs propres fonctions.

L'Inspecteur-Général fait allusion au service de protection comme si ce service était le seul dont la gendarmerie est chargée aux prisons. Je dois observer que dans les prisons de moindre importance, aux chefs-lieux de cazas, la gendarmerie est chargée de la direction intérieure entière, et dans ces cas évidemment les officiers étrangers devront surveiller l'exécution de ces services.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire envoyer une copie du Circulaire du 30 Juillet, 320, de l'Inspecteur-Général, à laquelle son Excellence fait allusion dans sa lettre.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) W. E. FAIRHOLME, *Colonel*,
Adjoint Militaire de la Grande-Bretagne.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *Drama, May* 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and of the reply of the Inspector-General, relating to the duties of the foreign officers.

I have always taken care not to demand for the latter the supervision of Ottoman prison officials who do not belong to the gendarmerie, and I have insisted only on their right to supervise the manner in which members of the gendarmerie perform all the duties intrusted to them in the prisons.

I am glad to learn, from Hilmi Pasha's letter, that his Excellency admits this, and I must accordingly believe that it was owing to a misunderstanding that the Ottoman gendarmerie officers at Cavalla, Sarichaban, and Pravishta informed my officers in these districts that they had been instructed not to allow access to the prisons to the foreign officers, and I trust that his Excellency has taken the necessary steps in order to rectify this error.

I accordingly take note that the right of access of foreign officers to prisons for the supervision of the work of the gendarmes is admitted, and, in informing my officers of this, I shall take care to instruct them not to exceed their duties.

The Inspector-General alludes to the duty of protection as if this were the only one with which the gendarmerie is intrusted in the prisons. I must remark that in the prisons of smaller importance, in the chief towns of the Kazas, the gendarmerie is intrusted with the entire internal administration, and in such cases the foreign officers must manifestly supervise the execution of these duties.

I beg your Excellency to cause a copy of the Inspector-General's Circular of the 30th July, 1904, to which his Excellency alludes in his letter, to be sent to me.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) W. E. FAIRHOLME, *Colonel,*
British Staff Officer.

No. 171.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 15, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Graves, inclosing a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Serres, reporting on an encounter between a Greek band in Serres Kaza and some Turkish troops, which led to the dispersal of the Greeks with loss.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 9, 1905.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch, which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Serres, reporting that the Greek band, whose appearance at Nigrita had been previously announced, had had an encounter with Turkish troops near Stefanina, in the south of the Kaza of Serres, and been dispersed with a loss of nine killed.

I am informed by the Vali of Salonica to-day that, in addition to the nine killed, the band lost fifteen wounded, and a certain quantity of arms and ammunition, and that, from information received by the authorities, it appears to have landed near Tchai Aghzi, at the mouth of the Strouma, and not in Cassandra, as had been supposed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Vice-Consul Théodorides to Consul-General Graves.

M. le Consul-Général,' *Serres, le 8 Mai*, 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'avant-hier, près de Stefanina, village distant 4 heures de la mer, et appartenant au Caza de Serres, une rencontre a eu lieu entre la bande Grecque ayant comme Chef Defantis (dont la présence je vous ai rapportée dans mon précédent rapport) et des détachements militaires ; de la bande neuf furent tués et des autres prirent la fuite, en emportant avec eux leurs blessés, et ayant laissé beaucoup de munitions sur l'endroit de la rencontre.

Hier presque tous les habitants du grand village Grec Sarmosakly (Caza de Serres) sont venus ici pour se plaindre des excès commis par un détachement de cavalerie durant une procession à l'occasion de l'arrivée dans le village de la Ceinture Sainte de Mont Athos. Le Maréchal Ibrahim Pacha les a tranquillisés, en leur promettant qu'il punira sévèrement les coupables.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Serres, May* 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on the day before yesterday, an encounter took place between the Greek band commanded by Defantis (whose presence I reported to you in my preceding report) and some detachments of troops near Stefanina, a village four hours distant from the sea, and forming part of the Kaza of Serres. Nine of the band were killed, and others took to flight, carrying with them their wounded, and leaving a large quantity of ammunition on the scene of the encounter.

Yesterday nearly all the inhabitants of the large Greek village of Sarmosakly (Kaza of Serres) came here in order to complain of the excesses committed by a detachment of cavalry during a procession on the occasion of the arrival of the Holy Girdle of Mount Athos in the village. Marshal Ibrahim Pasha calmed them by promising to punish the guilty severely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

No. 172.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 15, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir, reporting on an encounter which took place on the 5th instant at Vlaho-Blatsi, in the Kaza of Castoria, between the troops and a Greek band.

According to the Turkish official account the affair terminated disastrously for the soldiery, and Mr. McGregor says it has produced a strong revulsion of feeling among the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 172.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, May* 9, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 5th instant, at Vlaho-Blatsi, in the Kaza of Castoria, an encounter took place between a Greek band and a detachment of Turkish troops, resulting in what cannot but be regarded as a severe check for the latter, even if it be supposed that the information vouchsafed by the authorities is correct.

According to the official version of the incident, a detachment of fifty soldiers from Klissoura, under the command of a Lieutenant, met the Greek band composed of 120 to 150 men at dawn near the above-mentioned village, and summoned them to lay down their arms, a proposal on the part of the Greeks that they should be allowed to regain the Greek frontier having previously been rejected.

These negotiations came to nothing, and the Greeks, who had the advantage of position, then opened fire on the troops, who, after an engagement lasting till 8 P.M., were finally compelled to beat a retreat, with the loss of eight killed (including the Lieutenant) and seven wounded, the Greeks having lost only three killed and ten wounded.

The unofficial version of the affair does not materially differ from the above, except as regards the figures, the band being said to have consisted of 280 men, commanded by the Chiefs Vardas, Rovas, Malios, and Gudas, while the Turkish losses are stated to be nineteen killed and twenty-three wounded, the number of Greek wounded being five. It is also stated that the military authorities at Kayalar and Castoria dispatched about 200 troops to reinforce the detachment, but that they did not arrive on the scene until the band had retired.

The news of this incident has produced a strong revulsion of feeling among the Mussulman population here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

No. 173.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 16, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on two points, as to which General Degiorgis had expressed himself anxious, viz., the retention of their rank and seniority in the army by Turkish officers serving with the gendarmerie, and the arming of the gendarmerie with the Mauser rifle, I have practically succeeded in overcoming the opposition of the Minister of War.

As regards the former question, Riza Pasha assured Colonel Maunsell, who called on his Excellency at my request, that the army promotion of military officers employed with the gendarmerie would be in no way hindered, and that, as for the issue of the Mauser rifle to the gendarmerie, he saw no objection, and would be willing to supply them on the issue of the necessary Iradé, for which General Degiorgis should apply. The rifle would be the ordinary long Mauser now supplied to the regular troops, not the short Mauser carbine intended for cavalry which General Degiorgis would prefer.

The Minister, however, said that he could not consent to General Degiorgis' third request, *i.e.*, that 600 army recruits might be allowed to enter the Gendarmerie School at Salonica. This had been permitted last year merely to assist the commencement of the reorganization of the gendarmerie, but this year recruits are urgently needed for the army, and he could not spare the men. The gendarmerie does not form part of the army service, and recruits for it must be obtained for it in some other way through the civil authorities. I shall continue to press this question, which is one of vital importance to the gendarmerie reorganization, and I am not without hopes of being able to induce Riza Pasha to give way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 174.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 17, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir relative to the destruction of five Bulgarian Komitajis at Bilyanik, near Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, May* 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 9th instant a band of five Bulgarian Komitajis, who had been reported to the authorities as having concealed themselves in the hamlet of Bilyanik, about two hours eastward from Monastir, was destroyed by a detachment of troops supported by three mountain guns.

The houses in which the insurgents had taken refuge were burnt down, but I have not ascertained that any excesses were committed on the villagers, who had recently severed their connection with the Patriarchal Church.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

No. 175.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May* 13, 1905.

I COMMUNICATED to General Petroff this morning the substance of Sir N. O'Conor's despatch of the 2nd instant, reporting the representation made by his Excellency to the Grand Vizier relative to the failure of the Ottoman authorities to take proper steps to allow the Bulgarian refugees from the Adrianople Vilayet to return to their villages.

In spite of the denial given by the Grand Vizier to the allegations of the Bulgarian Government, General Petroff maintained that the refugees, who had been waiting on the frontier for permission to cross, had been unable to do so in consequence of the absence of any Turkish Commission at the points specified in M. Tzokoff's note to your Lordship of the 20th of last month. His Excellency had, however, yesterday received a telegram stating that over 100 refugees had just been allowed to pass; and he therefore trusted that, thanks to Sir Nicholas' intervention, this omission had now been made good.

On my inquiring whether it was true, as M. Petkoff had told me a few days ago, that many of the refugees were still afraid of returning to their old homes, General Petroff said that this was the case. Many of them, moreover, after having been kept waiting for weeks in vain for permission to cross, had now gone into the interior, and it might be difficult to induce them to return to the frontier and to run the risk of meeting for a second time with a refusal on the part of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

No. 176.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May* 13, 1905.

THE encounter which has recently taken place in the Melnik district between two Bulgarian bands, under Stoyanoff and Sandansky, shows the illusory character of the understanding supposed to have been arrived at between the leaders of the various sections of the Macedonian Committees, to which Mr. Marling alluded in his despatch of the 7th March.

The system of decentralization adopted by the "Organization Intérieure" has apparently produced a certain amount of disorganization in its ranks, and, although all its members are supposed to pursue a common plan of campaign, each leader has a free hand to act as he thinks best in his allotted field of operations. Thus in the Melnik district Sandansky has made himself notorious by terrorizing many of the villages, irrespective of the nationality of their inhabitants, and General Petroff has more than once denounced him and his followers as a set of brigands, whose depredations were secretly connived at by the Turks. Their action has frequently been directed against Bulgarian villages in districts where the authority of General Tzontcheff's

Committee was acknowledged, and it is said that Stoyanoff's object in crossing the frontier was to reassert the influence of that Committee and to suppress Sandansky and his band.

Hearing that Stoyanoff was at the head of some sixty Komitajis, Sandansky, according to a report published in the "Reformi," made overtures for a reconciliation, but on the former proceeding to the place fixed for their conference, he and his followers were received by a volley, and had to retire as best they could, leaving seven killed as well as many prisoners. Several of the latter, after having their hands and ears cut off, were brutally murdered by Sandansky's orders, and Stoyanoff is said to be organizing a fresh and larger band for the purpose of revenging this act of treachery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

No. 177.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May* 16, 1905.

I HAVE already, in my despatches of the 27th April and the 9th May respectively, reported on the recent anti-Greek demonstration at Philippopoli, to which reference is made in your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant, and I have but little to add on the subject of what actually took place on that occasion.

The Greek Government declare that the police failed to take the necessary precautions to prevent a disturbance of the peace, as was done in all the other towns where similar meetings were held, and they have, in consequence, presented through their Agent in Sophia a claim for 4,000 francs (160*l.*), as an indemnity for the damage done to Greek property. The Bulgarian Government, on the other hand, maintain that all the necessary measures were taken to preserve order at the meeting, and that the subsequent disturbances occurred several hours later when the police had relaxed their vigilance.

The Bulgarian Government have, so far, declined to entertain any claim for an indemnity, which they do not consider justified by the circumstances, and have also turned a deaf ear to the alternative suggestion put forward by M. Zalocostas, that as a moral satisfaction the Prefect of Philippopoli should pay an official visit to the Greek Consul and express his regret at the occurrence. The ringleaders in the recent disturbances have been arrested and will be brought to trial, and the sentence of fine or imprisonment which the Court may eventually pass on them is the only satisfaction which the Greek Government are likely to obtain.

The Government have, I believe, done their best to keep the anti-Greek agitation within legitimate limits, and the payment of an indemnity or the offer of an official apology to the Greek Government for the Philippopoli incident would, under present circumstances, be resented by public opinion generally throughout the country. They have already been attacked in the press for what is regarded as a too tolerant attitude towards the Greeks, and these attacks have received fresh stimulus from a report, published in yesterday's papers, to the effect that a body of Greeks had broken into the schoolhouse at Kavakli, in the Yamboli district, and, after smashing the windows, torn up a picture of Prince Ferdinand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

No. 178.

Sir G. Buchanan to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May* 17, 1905.

IN the course of a conversation, which I had with General Petroff on the 13th of this month, I inquired whether it was true that Colonel Yancoff had crossed into Macedonia at the head of a large band.

In reply, his Excellency read to me two telegrams which he had received from General Tocheff, commanding the Doubnitsa Division, stating that information had reached him to the effect that Colonel Yancoff with over 100 men had succeeded in

reaching the wooded mountainous district near the Rilo Monastery with the object of crossing the frontier. General Tocheff had at once taken measures, in concert with the Prefect of Kustendil, for the dispatch of a strong military force, supported by gendarmerie, to the district in question, and a portion of the band had since been surrounded and twenty of its members made prisoners. In the skirmish, which had taken place between the troops and the insurgents, shots had been exchanged, but apparently without loss of life to either party, though it is said that traces of blood were found on the ground.

In reply to a further question of mine General Petroff said that Colonel Yancoff's object was, he believed, to avenge the massacre of Zagorichani, with which place he had formerly been connected. The most stringent orders had, as I was already aware, been issued for guarding the frontier against the passage of any of the insurgent leaders or their followers, and when Sarafoff had proceeded a few weeks ago to Kustendil, he had at once been ordered to return to Sophia. The task of the Government, however, was a very difficult one in view of the indignation aroused throughout the country by recent events in Macedonia, as well as of the sympathy that was generally felt for the cause represented by the Komitajis, and of the secret assistance rendered them by many classes of the population, more especially by the villagers in the frontier districts.

The pursuit of Colonel Yancoff's band appears to have been continued for several days, but no further captures have been made, and it is generally supposed that he has succeeded in crossing into Macedonia with a large number of his followers.

The explanation given by General Petroff of the object of Colonel Yancoff's expedition is not, I think, altogether correct as I hear from other sources that it is not unconnected with the attempt recently made by Stoyanoff, as reported in my despatch of the 13th instant, to reassert the influence of the Tsontcheffist Committee in the Melnik district. A gentleman, who has recently had conversations with Sarafoff, Tatarcheff, and other leading Komitajis in Sophia, tells me that the disunion at present existing between the Heads of the various organizations was due to the jealousy with which each insurgent leader resented any attempt on the part of a rival to compete with him in his own particular district. They disclaimed at the same time the intention of attempting to avenge the murders committed by Greeks, or indeed of having recourse to any active campaign at present, as they wished to show that it was the Greeks and not the Bulgarians who were the real offenders. They complained, on the other hand, that, now that the failure of the Mürzsteg Reform Scheme had been demonstrated beyond dispute, the Turks had reverted to all their old methods of oppression, and Sarafoff, whose indignation on this score is naturally heightened by the fact that he has lost 200 men owing to the successful suppression of many of his bands by the Turkish troops, seemed, according to my informant, to be contemplating some scheme of vengence in a not very distant future.

His position, however, is not one of great influence at present, as, although he appears to have effected a reconciliation with General Tsontcheff, his relations with the "Organization Intérieure," of which he was once a member, are now so strained that he has even received letters threatening his assassination from several of his former comrades.

I have &c.
(Signed) GEORGE W. BUCHANAN.

No. 179.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 13, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that a few weeks ago a band, consisting of one major, two captains, four lieutenants, twelve non-commissioned officers, and some forty men, the latter mostly Macedonians from old Servia, was formed in Belgrade and sent across the frontier into Turkey.

I am now informed that, on or about the 6th instant, this band was attacked by some Turkish troops near the village of Tchelopek, and in the fight that ensued the major, one captain, two lieutenants, and several non-commissioned officers and men, making a total of twenty-five, were killed, the remainder were dispersed, and have since returned to Servia.

The Russian Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called the attention of

the Servian Government to this unsatisfactory state of affairs, and asked that stronger measures should be taken in order to prevent revolutionary bands from crossing into Macedonia. They were both assured by the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Servian Government are taking every possible measure to prevent the formation of such bands in this country, and that one had already been stopped and turned back at Vranja, while on its way to the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. L. BLAKENEY.

No. 180.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 23, 1905.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th instant, reporting the action of your colleagues in calling the attention of the Greek Government to the smuggling of arms into Macedonia, and stating that you had again spoken to M. Skouzés in a similar sense.

I approve the language which you used to his Excellency on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 181.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant reporting that you have learned from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica that, as a result of the Inspector-General's investigation into the outrages committed at Kuklitch, a certain number of Bashi-Bozouks have been condemned to imprisonment, while a Major and two Lieutenants are to be tried by court-martial.

I await with interest the result of this trial, as also that of the inquiry which your Excellency reports is to be made by General Mustapha Hilmi Pasha's Commission into the alleged laxity of military discipline in Macedonia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 182.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 25.)

My Lord, *Athens, May* 18, 1905.

I HAD spoken to M. Skouzès, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the smuggling of arms and the passage of bands into Macedonia, in the sense reported in my despatch of the 10th instant, before I received your Lordship's despatch on the same subject of the 3rd May; but this morning I took with me to the Minister's reception a copy of the last two paragraphs of that despatch, and showed it to his Excellency. He said that the frontier police at Larissa had been reinforced by 100 soldiers, and that several arrests had been made. He repeated what he had said before about the difficulty of guarding so long an extent of frontier, and said that many of those who smuggled arms were Bulgarians. I could suppose that no one had any interest in letting them through, yet they managed it sometimes.

I also took with me a copy of Sir G. Buchanan's despatch of the 1st ultimo inclosing the orders given to various Bulgarian authorities for the better security of the frontier. His Excellency asked me to leave it with him that he might take note of it.

A letter from His Majesty's Consul at Volo, dated the 15th instant, informs me that "a band of from 60 to 100 men has returned here from the frontier. It appears that the precautions lately taken by the Turks have rendered it more difficult

for these gentry to carry on their business successfully." My French colleague has received similar information, with the addition that there were wounded men with the bands. A number of Cretans from among them have returned to Athens, where, according to certain newspapers which make a grievance of the fact, they have been disarmed, in order to prevent their transferring their activity to their island.

One of my colleagues tells me that of a band of forty-four Greeks recently captured by Turkish troops near Florina only six were local men, the remainder being incursionists. This shows how much belief can be placed in the assertion that the Greek bands in Turkey are local peasants who have armed themselves for self-defence against the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed). F. ELLIOT.

No. 183.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to Macedonian gendarmerie question referred to in my despatch of the 23rd instant.* The day before yesterday the Porte received communication of an Iradé authorizing the 600 recruits for this year.

No. 184.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 17, 1905.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatches, both of the 6th instant, I directed Mr. Lamb to call upon the Grand Vizier yesterday and to renew to his Highness the representations I have already made protesting against the employment of Bashi-Bozouks against the insurgent bands, and urging that energetic action should be taken for the punishment of the persons implicated in the massacre at Zagorichani. Ferid Pasha being unable to receive him, Mr. Lamb saw the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and communicated to him the contents of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatches, stating that he was instructed to express the regret of His Majesty's Government at learning that the Ottoman authorities in Macedonia were still availing themselves of the services of irregular volunteers and Bashi-Bozouks in direct violation of the instructions given by the Grand Vizier to the Valis as communicated by his Highness to myself and also by Musurus Pasha to your Lordship. Mr. Lamb also urged upon Naoum Pasha the necessity of inflicting punishment on the persons concerned in the massacre of Zagorichani, and of taking such measures as would prevent the recurrence of such deplorable incidents.

Naoum Pasha took careful note of Mr. Lamb's communication, and promised to submit it to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

No. 185.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 18, 1905.

AFTER making to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the communication reported in my despatch of yesterday, Mr. Lamb proceeded, in pursuance of the instructions which I gave him on receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, to explain to his Excellency the concern which His Majesty's Government feel at learning that the development of the gendarmerie

* See No. 187.

corps in Macedonia was being retarded by difficulties raised at Constantinople. He dwelt especially on the inadequacy of the funds assigned by the Porte for the service, which resulted in undermanning, and on the difficulties made with regard to the payment of the travelling expenses of the foreign officers, and pointed out the undesirability of causing the local population to bear the cost of the construction of guard-houses. He insisted also again on the importance of permitting the facilities accorded last year by the Ministry of War for the selection of gendarmes from the military recruits.

Naoum Pasha took note of these points, and undertook to communicate them to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

No. 186.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub reporting on the activity of Servian bands in the Kazas of Koumanova and Preshova.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, May 17, 1905.*

I BEG to report that Servian bands have recently been very active in the Koumanova and Preshova Kazas.

An encounter between a Servian band and troops occurred about the 1st instant at Chelopek. The Kaïmakam first sent cavalry, whose rifles were outranged, and it was not until an infantry detachment was sent, who were aided by a considerable number of Bashi-Bozouks, that the band was put to flight. In the encounter 1 soldier was killed and 4 wounded, while the Serbs lost 1 man killed.

Some two days later a further encounter took place near Turkovtzi, in which the Serbs lost 1 man killed. Then they retired to Tirnova, and were again engaged by troops, who were routed, losing 4 killed and 28 wounded, while the Serbs lost 3 men killed. Another account puts the losses of the troops at 22 killed.

About the same time a Servian band of 6 men appeared at Mateitzi, of whom 3 were killed and 3 escaped.

On the 14th a band of 80 to 100 Serbs appeared in the Balkan of Klenik. A detachment of 75 soldiers was sent against it, but was obliged to retire after losing a captain and 1 man killed and 6 or 7 wounded. Another detachment of troops which attacked the band was also forced to retreat, and lost 6 or 7 men killed and 18 or 20 wounded.

There are said to be some 300 Servian Komitajis, among whom are a certain number of Servian officers and reservists, who are now operating in the Koumanova and Preshova Kazas. Their principal object is now to revenge the murder of the 7 Servians who were killed in the streets of Koumanova.

The Bulgarian Chief, Stefan Voivoda, and 3 companions, were killed by a Servian band at Papradisha (Kiuprulu).

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 187.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 29.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Monastir, giving details of a fatal bomb explosion which took place in the Bulgarian quarter of the town of Monastir in the early morning of the 17th instant.

In connection with Mr. McGregor's remarks upon the employment by the Turkish authorities of the Bashi-Bozouk, Shevki Agha, as a police official, I may mention that His Majesty's Embassy recently represented to the Porte the objections which His Majesty's Government have to the employment of Bashi-Bozouks in Macedonia, and special mention was made of Shevki Agha as a man of notoriously bad character.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Consul McGregor to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Monastir, May* 17, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following details regarding a fatal bomb explosion which took place here at six o'clock this morning in the Bulgarian quarter :—

A Bulgarian, named Vanghel Dimé Bekoff, who owns a kitchen-garden in the neighbourhood of the town arrived at his house here, accompanied by a young Bulgarian field-labourer called Ghiorghi, the latter bearing on his shoulders a large basket of vegetables. They had just entered the house when the bottom of the basket fell out and an explosion took place, killing Ghiorghi on the spot, wounding his master seriously, and doing considerable damage to the house.

A squad of gendarmerie and police immediately arrived on the scene, and, according to Major Cicognani, the Italian gendarmerie officer, who arrived a few minutes later and has been good enough to furnish me with the above details, it was then discovered that the basket had contained seven bombs, two of which had exploded owing to imprudent handling. The bombs were small but were evidently the work of experienced hands, and were charged with pyroxyline.

It is presumed that Bekoff had been employed by the Bulgarian Committee in introducing bombs into the town and thus accumulating a supply for future use, and the police, under the direction of the notorious Bashi-Bozouk Shevki Agha—who promptly disappeared on the arrival of the Italian officer—are now engaged in searching the houses in the neighbourhood of the occurrence.

I have, on this occasion, again called the attention of the Vali to the grave irregularity of employing well-known criminals like Shevki Agha under any circumstances, and more especially in cases like the present where his appearance caused a regular panic in the Bulgarian quarter. His Excellency replied that Shevki had been accorded military rank and had nothing to do with the gendarmerie; whereupon I pointed out that his statement merely aggravated the grievance. His Excellency then said that the matter was beyond his competence, having been taken out of his hands by the military authorities.

I thereupon informed him that I had no other course than to bring the matter to your Excellency's knowledge in the hope that measures would be taken to put an end to this crying scandal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. McGREGOR.

P.S.—Vanghel Bekoff succumbed to his injuries this afternoon.

(Signed) P. J. C. McG.

No. 188.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 23, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting on an encounter between a Greek band and Turkish troops at Vassilika.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) FRANCIS STRONGE.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, May 20, 1905.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that on Tuesday the 16th instant an encounter took place at Livaditsa near Vassilika, about 15 miles south-east of Salonica, between Turkish troops and a Greek band of 70 men, which is supposed to be the remnant of the band which was dispersed with loss at Stefanina Kaya, as reported in my above-mentioned despatch.

According to the official version, twenty-five Greeks, including their leader, were killed, and four prisoners taken, one of whom was wounded. The remainder took refuge in the neighbouring monastery of Aghia Anastasia, where they were said to be surrounded—but it is now admitted by the authorities that they succeeded in effecting their escape. It is also stated that the Turkish troops suffered practically no loss in this encounter, although it is rumoured in Greek circles that they had a large number of killed and wounded, and that they treated the villagers of Livaditsa with great barbarity after the fight was over.

A Russian gendarmerie officer and the Belgian officer Lieutenant-Colonel Malfeyt, have held an inquiry on the spot, the result of which I hope to communicate to your Excellency as soon as their report has been presented to General Degiorgis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 189.

Sir J. Kennedy to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, May 25, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, extracted from the Liberal newspaper, the text of the Iradé in favour of the Macedo-Roumanians, with a short, but accurate, statement of the benefits resulting to the Vlach population, stating that the Sultan's Iradé is the first public act recognizing the Vlach nationality; that the Vlachs will no longer be confounded with the Greek population of Macedonia, and expressing the hope that a religious organization may complete the acquired civil rights of the Macedo-Roumanians.

Gratitude is also expressed for the support given to the action of the Roumanian Government by the Representatives of Germany, Italy, Russia, and Austria-Hungary.

The efforts of successive Roumanian Governments have been for years past directed towards obtaining from the Sultan the grant of the above Iradé, which has been often promised to them. The realization of their wishes is an immense satisfaction to the King and the country, and a great triumph for the Conservative Government.

The incident of the arbitrary arrest and expulsion of the two school Inspectors at Janina was promptly and cleverly utilized for the purpose of obtaining the Iradé, in securing which this Government has been favoured by circumstances, and especially by the strong support of the German Ambassador at Constantinople.

The official recognition of the civil rights of the Vlach population may produce a

period of contentment, but it is probable that ecclesiastical questions will shortly arise. Turkish officials may protect Vlach priests and their congregations against acts of violence on the part of the Greeks, but the former can always be excommunicated by the Patriarch, so long as the latter dignitary refuses to issue the necessary Berat, or to appoint a Vlach Bishop in a diocese where Vlachs predominate, as has been done in the case of the Serb population of Uskub. Should, however, the Patriarch and the Greeks continue to ill-treat the Vlachs in religious and ecclesiastical matters, the latter may endeavour to obtain a head of their own special Church as the Bulgarians have done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. KENNEDY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 189.

Extract from the "Indépendance Roumaine" of May 12 (25), 1905.

UN IRADÉ EN FAVEUR DES MACÉDO-ROUMAINS.

LE "Sabah" et les autres journaux Turcs ont publié, à la date du 10 (23) Mai, 1905, un Iradé qui accorde aux Roumains de l'Empire Ottoman le droit de nommer des Mouhtars.

Voici le texte de ce document, qui nous est parvenu aujourd'hui même, grâce à la diligence de notre correspondant de Constantinople :—

"Sous les bienveillants auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Souverain, et à l'instar des bienfaits et des faveurs qu'il octroie à tous ses fidèles sujets sans distinction, pour le bénéfice de leur culte et de leur nationalité, les Valaques aussi habitant l'Empire Ottoman viennent de bénéficier—sur leur humble demande soumise aux pieds du trône—des mêmes droits civils dont jouissent les autres classes de ses sujets Ottomans non Musulmans.

"Ils auront le droit de nommer des Mouhtars pour leurs propres communautés, conformément à la loi; à l'instar des autres communautés qui sont représentées dans les Conseils Administratifs, ils auront également des membres à eux dans ces Conseils, et ce conformément à la loi; les professeurs qui seront nommés par les communautés Valaques pour inspecter, conformément aux lois de l'Empire, leurs propres écoles et celles à créer éventuellement seront l'objet de facilités de la part des autorités Impériales.

"En foi de quoi le présent Iradé Impérial a été octroyé et communiqué aux Départements compétents."

(Translation.)

AN IRADÉ IN FAVOUR OF THE MACEDO-ROUMANIANS.

THE "Sabah" and the other Turkish papers published on May 10 (23), 1905, an Iradé which accords to the Roumanians of the Ottoman Empire the right to name the Moukhtars.

The following is the text of this document, which reached us to-day, thanks to the diligence of our Constantinople correspondent:—

"Under the gracious auspices of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, our august Sovereign, and after the manner of the benefits and favours which he grants to all his faithful subjects without distinction, for the furtherance of their religion and of their nationality, the same civil rights which are enjoyed by the other classes of his non-Mussulman subjects have just been conferred—following on their humble demand laid at the foot of the throne—also on the Wallachians resident in the Ottoman Empire.

"They will have the right to name Moukhtars in their own communities, and according to law; like the other communities which are represented in the administrative Councils, they also will have their own members on these Councils in accordance with the law; the professors named by Wallachian communities to

inspect, in conformity with the laws of the Empire, their own schools and those schools which will eventually be established, will be given facilities by the Imperial authorities.

"By reason of which the present Imperial Iradé has been drawn up and communicated to the competent departments."

No. 190.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, transmitting copy of a despatch from Colonel Fairholme from which it appears that the right of the foreign gendarmerie officers to have access to prisons has been admitted by the Inspector-General.

His Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction of the result which has been achieved in this direction, and hope that it may lead to further progress in the requisite reforms.

The favourable attitude which has now been adopted by the Imperial Government, as reported in your despatch of the 16th instant and your telegram of the 25th instant, towards the demands of General Degiorgis, in support of which your Excellency made representations to the Sublime Porte has also been noted with satisfaction by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 191.

Mr. Johnstone to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 31, 1905.

MACEDONIA.

I am informed by Count Goluchowski that Baron Calice, who has been here on leave for a few days, left for Constantinople yesterday, and has received instructions immediately on his arrival to press urgently on the Porte the acceptance of the scheme of financial reform in his capacity as doyen of the Ambassadors.

No. 192.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 26, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 6th instant, and to my despatch of the 17th instant, relative to the employment of Bashi-Bozouks in Macedonia, I have the honour to report that the substance of the representations which I have made to the Sublime Porte on this subject were communicated to the Inspector-General for his observations.

Hilmi Pasha states in his reply, which has been communicated to me at the Sublime Porte, that the pursuit of insurgent bands in a wild and mountainous district necessitates intimate local and topographical knowledge, which neither the military officers nor even the civil officials can be expected to possess. The officers in command of detachments are therefore compelled to have recourse to the services of a certain number of individuals, recruited from the neighbouring population, who accompany their detachment as guides. These individuals, however, are used exclusively as guides or scouts, and are never placed in a position of command.

As regards the Monastirli Shevki, this person has, indeed, on account of his valuable and extensive local knowledge and information, been regularly employed as guide for the past seven or eight months.

Hilmi Pasha concludes with an assurance that he will always be ready to investigate any specific instances of misconduct of which the particulars may be brought to his notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 193.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 26, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of an interesting despatch from Mr. Consul-General Graves, giving an account of the disorders in Macedonia, and forwarding a Memorandum on the subject of the activity of Greek and Bulgarian bands since the date of his despatch of the 7th instant, inclosed in my despatch of the 9th instant.

Mr. Graves reports that the Turkish authorities are now operating with greater vigour against Greek bands, and that orders have been given that they shall in future be tried by the same special Court as the Bulgarians. The southern parts of Salonica and Monastir are, however, in a very insecure condition and a veritable reign of terror exists in the Kaza of Castoria.

The Bulgarian Revolutionary Organization appears to have adopted an expectant attitude, but there have been some conflicts with the troops resulting in the extermination of Bulgarian bands.

There has, moreover, been a recrudescence of Servian revolutionary activity in the Kazas of Uskub bordering on Servia, directed mainly against the Mussulman element.

Finally Mr. Graves calls attention to a new danger which has arisen in Central Macedonia resulting from the formation of a Mussulman Secret Organization controlled by local Turkish and Albanian Beys, which seeks to terrorize the Bulgarian population by frequent murders of unoffending wayfarers.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Graves has brought this matter to the notice of the Austrian Civil Agent, and that he found that he was already aware of it and alive to its importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, May 21, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum on the subject of the activity of the Greek and Bulgarian bands since the date of my despatch of the 7th ultimo. Most of the outrages and encounters therein referred to have been reported separately by His Majesty's Consul at Monastir or myself.

The Greek Committees continue to send bands across the Thessalian frontier into Monastir, while those in the Vilayet of Salonica have been reinforced by the landing of 150 at the mouth of the Strouma, in the Gulf of Orfano, whence they endeavoured unsuccessfully to enter the Serres district, but were driven back into Chalcidicé; and of 140 who recently disembarked near Ekaterina, and have probably moved northwards into Yenijé.

It will be seen that it was not until nearly three weeks after the massacre of Zagoritchani that the Turkish authorities, roused from their apathy by the indignation which was excited by that affair, and incensed at the losses inflicted on their troops at Vlaho Blatsi and elsewhere, began to operate with greater vigour against the Greek bands.

Orders have now been issued that the coast should be patrolled by the torpedo-boats stationed at Salonica, in conjunction with the gendarmerie, and that the captured members of Greek bands should in future be tried by the same Special Court which deals with Bulgarian insurgents.

In the meanwhile, the southern parts of Salonica and Monastir are in a very insecure condition, and I am informed from Castoria that a genuine reign of terror exists in that Kaza, where, independently of wholesale murders like those of Zagoritchani, there have been during the last two months and a-half no fewer than sixty-five "disappearances," about thirty of which have, so far, been accounted for by the discovery of the bodies of the murdered.

The Bulgarian Revolutionary Organizations, on the other hand, although they keep their bands on foot, have, of late, maintained an expectant attitude, and have, when possible, avoided encounters with the troops. I am informed that they have seriously debated the question of reprisals on the Greeks for the Zagoritchani and other outrages, and that for the present the opinion of the majority is against any such action as inopportune and damaging to their cause. During this period the troops have been successful in exterminating several Bulgarian bands, the members of which in two or three instances showed desperate resolution, and preferred suicide to surrender.

In the Kazas of Uskub bordering on Servia, Mr. Satow reports a marked recrudescence of Servian revolutionary activity, directed not so much against their Bulgarian rivals as against the Mussulman element, and apparently provoked by the desire to avenge the massacre of the seven Servian prisoners in the streets of Koumanova on the 2nd April.

In those districts of Central Macedonia which are not affected by either the Servian or the Greek propagandas, the Christian population being almost exclusively Bulgarian and Exarchist, a new danger is arising which may be fraught with the gravest consequences. I am assured that the Mussulman secret organization, which began to take shape last summer in the Kazas of Tikvish, Pérlepé, Kiuprulu, and Ishtib, is becoming stronger and more enterprising. The organizers are the local Turkish and Albanian Beys, and the rank and file are recruited from Mussulmans of bad character, chiefly ex-"Bekjis" and "gardes champêtres" who have been left without employment by the introduction of Hilmi Pasha's scheme for village watchmen. Their mode of procedure is to visit the Bulgarian villages in small bands and murder peasants here and there for the sake of inspiring terror, shooting down any Bulgarian wayfarers they happen to encounter on the roads. Shepherd boys, carriers, and pedlars seem to be their most frequent victims, and my informant assured me that in the single Kaza of Ishtib, during the first week of May, there were no fewer than forty-two murders, chiefly of this class, though half-a-dozen murders of Mussulmans by Christians must be included in the number. A similar organization is known to exist among the Albanian Beys of Ochrida. The local authorities, I believe, endeavour to discourage and restrain this movement, but without much success, and it is likely to form a serious source of danger to the peace of the country, especially if the Bulgarian element should retaliate more energetically than they have done so far, as in that case, massacres of Christians would almost certainly ensue. I have drawn the attention of the Austrian Civil Agent to these facts, and was glad to find that he was already acquainted with them and quite alive to their possible importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Memorandum respecting Activity of Greek Bands, &c., since April 1, 1905.

April 7.—Massacre at Zagoritchani, sixty Bulgarians killed by Greek band.

April 10.—At Zhuzeltsi, Castoria Kaza, eight Bulgarians murdered.

April 14.—At Kousko, Nasselitch Kaza, seven Bulgarians murdered, one wounded and two carried off.

April 24.—At Episcopi, Yenije Kaza, seven Bulgarians murdered.

April 26.—At Loshnitsa, Castoria Kaza, Greek band attacked by troops; three killed and five made prisoners.

April 27.—At Golitchani, Vodena Kaza, an attack on the village by a Greek band of thirty men was beaten off by the villagers.

April 29.—At Belkamen, Florina Kaza, Greek band surrounded by troops; four killed, six wounded, and forty-four taken prisoners.

May 1.—Attempt to assassinate Bulgarian priest, Georghi Mandicheff, at Salonica.

May 2.—At Laghen, Florina Kaza, four Bulgarians killed and two wounded.

May 5.—At Vlaho Blatzi, Castoria Kaza, Turkish detachment ambushed; an officer and eight men killed and seven wounded; three Greeks were killed and ten wounded.

May 6.—At Stephanina Kaya, Serres Kaza, Greek band attacked by troops; nine killed and fifteen wounded.

May 13.—Attempt to assassinate Director of Bulgarian Gymnasium at Salonica.

May 16.—At Livaditsa, Cassandra Kaza, Greek band attacked by troops; twelve killed and several wounded.

Inclosure 3 in No. 193.

Memorandum respecting Activity of Bulgarian Bands, &c., since April 7, 1905.

April 13.—Bulgarian Komitajis killed two Mussulmans on the Belesh Mountains in the Petritch Caza.

April 15.—Between Radovishta and Drach, a band of eight was surrounded by troops; six were killed.

April 15.—At Deramtsé, Osmanié Caza, a band of nineteen exterminated.

April 21.—At Kapatovo, Melnik Caza, Christo Ouzounof's band of sixteen was exterminated, several committing suicide to avoid capture.

April 27.—Between Raitchani and Zrilanovo, Kochana Kaza, nineteen Komitajis were killed out of a band of twenty-five.

May 9.—At Bilianik, Monastir Kaza, five Bulgarians were surrounded and killed, and several houses were burnt.

No. 194.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 5.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting on the issue of an Iradé for granting army recruits for the Macedonian gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

(Extract.) *Salonica, May* 26, 1905.

I HAVE communicated to General Degiorgis the contents of your Excellency's despatch of the 16th instant* on the subject of the action you have taken to support him in regard to the three points which he had raised in connection with the Macedonian gendarmerie service.

The General begged me to thank your Excellency for the assistance which you have so promptly afforded him on this and similar occasions.

He was now glad to inform me that an Iradé had been issued by the Sultan to provide the necessary army recruits, and an order had already been received from the Ministry for War by the Marshal Commanding the Third Army Corps, providing that about one-half of the 600 asked for should be drafted into the school at the end of May and the remainder in October.

General Degiorgis assured me that your Excellency could count on his support in the representations which you are making for the purpose of securing the maintenance of the privileges hitherto accorded to the foreign gendarmerie officers, especially the right of access to prisons, to which he attaches great importance, in view of the notorious defects of the Turkish prison system.

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* See No. 173.

No. 195.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 30, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting on the greater activity of Bulgarian bands on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, May 27, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Serres, reporting the murder of ten gypsies by Bulgarian brigands at Libofka, near Melnik, and an increase of activity on the part of the Komitajis in the districts bordering on the Bulgarian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 196.

Mr. Thesiger to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May 30, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the activity of Servian bands has increased very largely during the past six weeks, and that they are now directed for the most part by Servian officers and non-commissioned officers.

This recrudescence of activity, which was recently the subject of strong representations on the part of the Austrian and Russian Legations. Since then the energy of the bands has somewhat decreased, but the diminution of their numbers is more apparent than real, as, though many of their numbers have been sent to their homes, the "cadres" remain intact, and can be filled up when required.

Some arrangement seems to have been come to between Servia and Bulgaria with regard to the rights of the former country over Old Servia, though the line of demarcation is still in dispute, both countries claiming the district of Uskub as lying within their sphere of influence.

To this fact may, I think, be traced the increased activity of the Servian bands, their duty being to demonstrate the preponderating influence of Servia in the disputed district, as well as to win back to the Patriarchist fold, by the usual methods, all such of their compatriots as have so far ceded to Bulgarian pressure and gone over to the Exarchate.

As long as this question of Uskub remains unsettled the Servian bands are likely to be maintained, and the rumour that a general attack on the Exarchists in these districts is being planned is not unlikely to be founded on fact.

The numbers of these bands at present in the field are said to be about 500, a figure which, owing to the recent organization, could probably be easily doubled at very short notice. Arms are believed to be plentiful, but ammunition is somewhat scarce, and the difficulties of sending it over the frontier have increased of late, owing to the extra vigilance of the Turkish frontier guards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILFRED G. THESIGER.

No. 197.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 3, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting further on the encounter which took place between the troops and a Greek band at Livaditsa, near Vassilika, on the 16th ultimo inclosing the account furnished to General Degiorgis by the Russian gendarmerie officer at Langaza of his inquiry into the affair.

I learn that a very considerable improvement was shown in the conduct of the military operations, in respect of the discipline of the troops and of the exercise of authority by the officers, as well as of the absence of Bashi-Bozouks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 30, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that the result of the inquiry held on the scene of the encounter between Turkish troops and a Greek band at Livaditsa, near Vassilika, by the Russian and Belgian gendarmerie officers was to show that there had been exaggeration on both sides.

Eleven Greeks were killed, instead of twenty-five, as reported by the Turkish authorities, and the supposed leader of the band, on whose body various documents were found, turns out to have been one of the three lieutenants. Of the four prisoners brought in, one only, a Cretan, was a member of the band, the others being villagers of the neighbourhood.

The Turkish losses, instead of being very heavy, as reported in Greek circles here and in the Greek press, were confined to a few wounded, and there seems to have been no foundation for the allegations of ill-treatment of the villagers of Livaditsa by the troops.

I am informed privately that the band is now definitely broken up, and that most of the survivors are now hiding in Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 198.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 5, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, addressed to His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting on the events which have occurred in the vilayet of Kossovo during the month of May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, May* 31, 1905.

I BEG to report that since the beginning of the month, when several conflicts between troops and Servian bands occurred, the vilayet has enjoyed comparative exemption from such events.

On the 22nd instant, 14 Moslems, returning with sheep from Salonica, were attacked near Kiuprulu by a Bulgarian band of an estimated strength of 20 men. According to the official account the shepherds, although armed only with revolvers, succeeded in killing 4 Bulgars and in wounding another, their own losses being 1 killed and 2 wounded. The explanation of this somewhat improbable success is said to be that the fighting began at close quarters, and that two Mannlichers belonging to dead Bulgars were taken and used by the shepherds. It is more likely that the latter were themselves carrying rifles.

At Berana, between Tashlija and Koulashin, a conflict has occurred between Serbs and Moslems, owing to the wish of a Moslem girl to become Christian. With this end she was carried off by the Serbs while going to fetch water, whereupon fighting ensued in which some 13 persons were killed. The girl, who was slightly wounded, has been taken charge of by the local authorities, and is to be handed over to her parents.

At Vertok, near Gostivar, the tower and granaries of a local Bey were burnt by Bulgarians. To revenge this act a force of Albanians from the Malissia region came to a village an hour off, wounded a Bulgarian, and carried off all the sheep and their shepherds. Some 450 of the sheep have been recovered and four Albanians arrested.

At Kochana, as the result of perquisitions following on the discovery of compromising letters on the corpse of a Bulgarian leader killed in an encounter with troops, the director of the Bulgarian school, 3 schoolmasters, a priest, and 8 other persons have been arrested, and are to be brought to trial, charged with being the leaders of the local branch of the revolutionary organization.

The Mutessarif of Ipek, Hassan Pasha, has been removed, owing to his unpopularity with the Albanians, and Jemal Bey, Colonel of Redifs from Prishtina, who is himself half Albanian, has been appointed in his place.

Nafid Bey, Kaïmakam of Vuchitern, has been assassinated by an Albanian named Seifeddin.

During the month 39 cases of murder have come to my knowledge, and I have no doubt that others have occurred of which I have not heard. Of the 39, 33 were murders of Christians, of which 15 were committed by Christians, 12 by Moslems, and 6 by persons unknown; 3 Christians and 2 Moslems have also been wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 199.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 6, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, reporting an encounter between a Bulgarian band and Turkish troops at Chernareka.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 1, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 30th ultimo the Officer Commanding the troops at Boemitza, near Gumenja, having received notice that a Bulgarian band under Andon Yovan was about to attack the employés who had just been sent by Mr. Alfred Abbott to work his silver-lead mine at Isvor, started in search of the band, which he encountered at Chernareka. An engagement followed, in which two soldiers were killed and a corporal wounded, while the whole band of twelve men, including their leader, were killed.

The engineer of the mine, Mr. Henry Hone, reports to me that the conduct of the troops was excellent, and I have recommended the officer, Chakir Hassan Effendi, of the 4th Chasseur Battalion, to Hilmi Pasha's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 200.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 12.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 6, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, giving a detailed report of a tour which he has just made in the north-east of that vilayet and along the Bulgarian frontier, and describing the situation of the various villages and towns through which he passed.

Captain Townshend reports that many of the Bulgarian villagers have suffered considerably, but he adds that where they had the upper hand they did not hesitate to retaliate by destroying mosques and looting the property of their Moslem neighbours. The repatriation of refugees he finds not to be making as much progress as could be wished, and states that at Malkoshlar and Gaïbalar, two neighbouring villages on the road from Adrianople into Bulgaria, where Commissions are sitting to examine those who desire to return, only about 130 persons had presented themselves in the forty-five days since the Commission had been sitting.

As your Lordship is aware, I have made frequent representations to the Porte, urging that proper and effective measures should be taken to permit the refugees to return, and I hope that the labours of the mixed frontier Commission, which is to meet shortly, will tend to facilitate matters in this respect.

I am sending a copy of this despatch and its inclosures to His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Consul Townshend to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Adrianople, June* 2, 1905.

PURSUANT to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have returned to Adrianople from a journey along the Bulgarian frontier.

The following was the route followed :—

May 23.—Adrianople to Kirk-Kilissé;
May 24.—Kirk-Kilissé to Tirnovo;
May 25.—Tirnovo to Vasilikos;
May 26.—Vasilikos to Zabernovo;
May 27.—Zabernovo to Evrenĕsĕ-Keui;
May 28.—Evrenĕsĕ-Keui to Malkoshlar;
May 29.—Malkoshlar to Demir-Keui;
May 30.—Demir-Keui to Dervish-Tépé;
May 31.—Dervish-Tépé to Mustafa-Pacha;

and thence by train to Adrianople.

There is a good carriage road from Adrianople to Tirnovo, after which the route is only practicable for pack horses, and in places for mountain ox-waggons. From Tirnovo to Evrenĕsĕ-Keui the track lies through dense forest.

As far as possible I kept along the frontier, visiting Turkish, Bulgarian, and Greek villages impartially.

Practically every village near the frontier is occupied by troops, unless it is very close to a military post.

As showing the existing state of affairs, I have the honour to make the following remarks on the towns and villages visited in the order in which I came to them :—

Khas-Keui, the first important village, is at a distance of four hours from Adrianople, and has a mixed population of Turks and Bulgarians, who seem to get on fairly well together.

Inaji-Keui, two hours further on, is a Bulgarian village, which suffered some damage in 1903, but is now in good order, and the people seem prosperous.

Kirk-Kilissé, a town of some 22,000 inhabitants, and the seat of a Mutessarif. Two-thirds of the population are Christians, the Greek community being by far the most numerous. Here is the head-quarters of a division of troops, and everything seems peaceful in the town. I had, however, no opportunity of conversation with any of the Bulgarian inhabitants.

Koru-Keui, three hours from Kirk-Kilissé, was a Bulgarian village, but was completely destroyed by Albanian troops in 1903. The inhabitants fled to Bulgaria, and the village is now occupied by a detachment of soldiers, who have repaired one or two houses for their own use.

Derré-Keui, one and a-half hours further on, is a Bulgarian village, from which the people fled across the frontier in 1903. The Military Commandant here informed me that all had returned except fifty. I walked all over the village, and counted about fifty houses completely destroyed, and I am of opinion that many more than fifty people are still absent.

Those who have returned are rebuilding their houses with wood from the surrounding forests.

Tirnovo, a Bulgarian town, contains the head-quarters of four battalions of infantry and a mountain battery. There was no loss of life actually in the town during the insurrection, but several people were killed just outside it. The Albanians did a certain amount of looting in the town, but were eventually confined in their barracks.

The present garrison seems to be fairly well-behaved, but the people are very much afraid of them.

There are about 300 houses.

Three-quarters of the people fled to Bulgaria in 1903, and about one-fourth have not yet returned. The shepherds are not infrequently accused by the soldiers of meeting Komitajis, and are sometimes beaten for not giving information which they are supposed to have.

Gramatika, four hours from Tirnovo, is a Bulgarian village, with a strong Turkish garrison, owing to whose presence I had not much opportunity of conversing with the villagers.

About fifty houses have been destroyed, and no attempt has been made at rebuilding them.

The Turkish soldiers violated two women and a girl in this village about one month ago.

Oolgara, a Bulgarian village, about two hours further on; with a large garrison of troops.

There were, in 1903, about 250 houses, of which three-fourths are now in ruins, and no attempt has been made to rebuild them. I was informed that Bulgarian revolutionary leaders had stayed in this village, exhorting the people to rebel, and that the destruction of the village was the subsequent vengeance of the troops.

Vasilikos, on the Black Sea, contains 350 houses, almost all Greek. In 1903 a force of 200 or 300 Bulgarians entered the town, which is a seat of a Kaïmakam, and made prisoners of four officials found in the Government buildings. The town suffered no damage, and the Turks seemed on good terms with the Greek population.

Poturnak, one and a-half hours to the north-west of Vasilikos, is a Turkish village, which has suffered no damage.

Vizitsa, four and a-half hours from Poturnak, was a Bulgarian village, from which the people voluntarily emigrated some years ago, selling their lands to the inhabitants of a neighbouring village. The houses are now almost in ruins. There is a garrison of thirty soldiers.

Zabernovo, one and a-half hours further on, is half-an-hour from the frontier. Population Bulgarians, with a garrison of about twenty soldiers. Everyone from this village fled to Bulgaria in 1903, but almost all have now returned and resumed their usual occupations. A few houses were burned, and the interior of the church, its sacred pictures, &c., destroyed by the Turks. Everything which the refugees left in their houses was gone on their return. The people have no complaints against the garrison, and seem to be in a fair way to recover their former prosperity. Some of them have large flocks of goats and sheep.

Kalovo, one hour from Zabernovo, is a Bulgarian village, almost empty, but the majority of its inhabitants emigrated to Bulgaria before the insurrection of 1903.

Konak, on the frontier, consists of about sixty Bulgarian houses, of which at least three-fourths are empty, the people having remained across the frontier.

Evrenĕsĕ-Keui, half-an-hour from the frontier and one and a-half hours from

Geuk-Tépé, is a Turkish village. All the inhabitants fled to Kirk-Kilissé after the neighbouring Turkish frontier post had been taken by the revolutionaries in 1903. The latter then entered the village and destroyed the mosque, of which nothing is left standing but the minaret. They also carried off everything left in the houses, and drove off the stock which the villagers had abandoned in the hastiness of their flight. All the latter have now returned to the village, which has no garrison, and relies on Geuk-Tépé for protection in case of further Bulgarian aggression.

Alatla, a Turkish village two and a-half hours further to the west, has about seventy-five houses, of which thirty-five were destroyed by the Komitajis after the flight of the Turkish inhabitants; there is now a garrison of thirty soldiers.

Topjilar-Keui, three and a-half hours further on, was a Turkish village. The inhabitants fled in 1903, taking all their belongings with them, and settled in the district of Rodosto. The Bulgarians there partially burned the village and destroyed the mosque.

Erménie-Keui, three-quarters of an hour from Topjilar, is a Turkish village, which suffered no damage.

Penchumaresë, a Bulgarian village close to Erménie-Keui, was deserted in 1903 and is still empty.

Malkoshlar, a Turkish village on a main road from Adrianople (twelve hours) into Bulgaria.

The village is on the frontier just opposite the Bulgarian village Gaïbalar. In these two villages are Commissions to examine the cases of refugees wishing to return to Turkey. Malkoshlar contains about sixty houses, and has suffered no damage.

Vaïsal, four hours further on, consists of 100 Moslem and forty-five Bulgarian houses. Little or nothing in the way of disturbances took place.

I also visited or passed close to the following villages, all inhabited by Moslems, and none of which have suffered any damage: Hadjilar, Kuchuinne-Keui, Challer, Deré-Keui, Dong-Keui, Demir-Keui, Chatma, Kireji, Khas-Keui.

Michalitch, a large Greek village two hours from the frontier, has suffered no damage.

Dervish Tépé, Bulgarian village on the frontier, ten hours from Adrianople and five from Moustafa Pacha. The village suffered no damage, but six of its inhabitants were shot in more or less cold blood on suspicion, and for not acquiescing in paying money for various purposes.

Musratli and Dimitri-Keui are between Dervish Tépé and Moustafa Pacha. The former is inhabited by Bulgarian Catholics and the latter by Greeks. Neither suffered any damage.

It may be rightly said that on the route followed it was only in the Sanjak of Kirk-Kilissé that there was any serious trouble. I was everywhere received with the greatest civility by the Turkish authorities with guards of honour, &c.

There are military guard-houses all along the frontier on both sides, in some cases the Turkish and Bulgarian guards being within speaking distance of one another, and they cross the frontier freely for the purpose of getting water from springs on either side.

The path forms the frontier-line for many miles, and the patrols pass one another daily. The Turkish system of patrolling is a very extensive one, it being impossible to go more than two hours without meeting a patrol of five or six men. The road between Kirk-Kilissé and Tirnovo is especially well patrolled by cavalry.

Between these patrols and guard-houses and the garrisons of fifteen or twenty men in every village I do not consider it possible for there to be any rising this summer in the district; and I think that the presence of the Turkish soldiers in the Bulgarian villages is a blessing in spite of the drawbacks. It is true that the soldiers do not always comport themselves well towards the Christian populations, and it is undeniable that there are cases of violation of women and the appropriating without payment of sheep, bread, and other property, but, on the other hand, the people are saved from the intolerable position of two years ago, when the revolutionary bands entered the villages, welcome or unwelcome, and the Turks subsequently avenged themselves on the villagers. In many cases, of course, the bands were invited by the villagers, who received arms and ammunition from them, but in others the peasants had all their misfortunes forced upon them. They are now saved from accusation by the Turks since the presence of the soldiers is a guarantee of the absence of the Komitajis.

The frontier-line being for so many miles through dense forest, it is absolutely

impossible for either side to prevent small parties of brigands from crossing during the night.

The Turks, however, accuse the Bulgarian posts of harbouring these brigands during the daytime, and base their statements on the occasional presence of Bulgarians with the soldiers, and I myself saw some men in the Bulgarian guard-houses who certainly were not soldiers; but the explanation that the Bulgarian soldiers have friends to see them from the neighbouring villages on their own side seems a reasonable one.

The Turkish officials maintain that there are robbers who go about in small parties to waylay travellers, and that these robbers are local Bulgarians who have lost everything and have become brigands for a livelihood.

I took every step to inform myself concerning the return of the refugees, and I regret to be obliged to report that it is not making as much progress as could be wished, which is the more difficult to understand inasmuch as the returned refugees to whom I had opportunities of speaking privately assured me of their joy at being back in their villages. Some of them even went so far as to curse the Komitajis, and gave descriptions of their life as refugees in Bulgaria, comparing it unfavourably with that of Turkey, where, they said, they could cut as much timber as they wanted, and send their flocks to graze on the mountains without paying anything, whereas in Bulgaria they had to pay for everything, and those who brought their stock with them had to sell many of them or see them die of starvation.

At Malkoshlar there is a Commission which had been there for forty-five days to receive the returning refugees. The head of the Commission, Dervish Bey, is also Bimbashi of the garrison. He informed me that about 130 persons had returned during the forty-five days, but that the Bulgarians do not wish the refugees to return to Turkey, and spread stories of Turkish atrocities to frighten them. On arrival the refugees are supposed to receive escorts and transport to their villages, and a small daily allowance of bread or biscuits, together with sums ranging from 70 to 100 piastres per month! The Commission receives people at any hour of the day up to 11 o'clock *à la Turque*.

Ghalib Pasha, the Mutessarif of Kirk-Kilissé, informed me that the Government had paid £T. 15,000 in his district in relief, but, considering all the hands through which this money must pass, it is not to be supposed that half of it reaches the refugees without European supervision.

As regards destruction of property, the Bulgarian villages in general have suffered terribly; their houses and churches being burned or wrecked and their property looted. It is, however, only fair to state that where the Bulgarians have had the upper hand, as in the Turkish village of Evrenĕsĕ-Keui, they have not hesitated to destroy mosques and loot property, while a large number of the Turkish frontier posts have been burned; but I heard of no instances in which the Bulgarians had been guilty of murder or outrage upon the actual persons of the Turks.

The lands of the refugees have, as far as I saw, been cultivated by the people of the nearest village, Moslem or Christian, on the understanding that if the owners return before the harvest they are to have half the crop.

Many of the Bulgarian villagers, while feeling themselves in comparative security in the villages, are afraid to go out to work on their lands for fear of meeting irresponsible patrols of soldiers who might ill-treat them, and, in fact, the people in general are thoroughly afraid of the troops. For this reason I found it very hard to get them to speak freely to me, as they feared subsequent trouble. The authorities everywhere offered to call peasants to talk to me and to confirm the official statements, but I did not avail myself of the offers, considering that statements made under such circumstances would be valueless.

In conclusion, I consider that if the village garrisons and patrols are maintained, and if the soldiers receive severe punishment for any ill-treatment of villagers, the district will have a good chance of becoming as contented and prosperous as it is possible for any Christian peasants to be under Turkish rule. The peasants have grown to look upon it as almost the natural thing to give bread, &c., to the soldiers, but they can never reconcile themselves to outrages on their women-folk, and it is unfortunately these offences which seem to go unpunished, though they are not of frequent occurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR F. TOWNSHEND, *Captain*.

No. 201.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 13, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, reporting the explanations which have been received from Hilmi Pasha, and communicated to you by the Porte in regard to the employment of Bashi-Bozouks in the operations against Bulgarian bands in Macedonia.

Hilmi Pasha appears to consider that the remonstrances of His Majesty's Government are fully met by his statement that the employment of a certain number of the local population as guides is necessary for the success of the operations of the troops, and although he asserts his readiness to investigate any specific instances of misconduct brought to his notice, he omits all reference to the share taken by Bashi-Bozouks in the deplorable occurrences which have attended the proceedings of the Turkish troops on certain recent occasions.

Among the instances which His Majesty's Government have in view, are (1) the outrages at Kuklitch, in which it is evident, from Captain du Cimetierre's report, that Bashi-Bozouks took part, of whom indeed several have been condemned to imprisonment; (2) the excesses at Zervi, in regard to which Mr. du Vallon, in his despatch of the 26th April,* transmitted a Report by the Russian Gendarmerie Officer and stated that "the presence of Bashi-Bozouks, who, as usual, pillaged right and left, seems to be established beyond doubt"; (3) an attack on a small Bulgarian band reported by Mr. Consul-General Graves in his despatch of the 7th April,† at the conclusion of which the troops and armed Turkish villagers plundered the village of Hassanli and ill-treated the inhabitants; (4) an encounter with a Servian band at Chelopek, reported in Mr. Vice-Consul Satow's despatch of the 17th May,‡ in which it is stated that "it was not until an infantry detachment was sent, who were aided by a considerable number of Bashi-Bozouks, that the band was put to flight."

These incidents all afford manifest evidence of disregard of the Grand Vizier's instructions referred to in the concluding paragraph of my despatch of the 6th May. The reply of Hilmi Pasha affords no justification for them, and I have to request that your Excellency will call for an investigation of the circumstances under which Bashi-Bozouks came to be employed on these occasions, and will again impress upon the Sublime Porte the necessity of adhering strictly to the assurances they have given that only the regular troops and the regular police shall be employed in action against the insurrectionary bands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 202.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 17.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 9, 1905.

THIS morning's newspapers are full of the news of an encounter between Turkish troops and a Greco-Macedonian band at Chernareka, near Gumentsa, in the Vilayet of Salonica; in which two officers of the Greek infantry, Captain Moraïtis and Lieutenant Frangopoulos, lost their lives. It appears that Moraïtis, who was known as the leader of the Greek bands in the vilayet under the name of Captain Roumeliotis, had been with 35 men pursuing a Bulgarian band of 250, a detachment of which of 22 men he had annihilated, when he met a greatly superior Turkish force which defeated him after a hard fight, the two officers and a sergeant being killed as well as many of their men, of whom only some half-dozen made good their escape.

There is a talk of a public memorial service at the Cathedral of Athens, to be organized by the comrades of the fallen officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

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* See No. 153. † See No. 109. ‡ See No. 186.

No. 203.

Sir N. O Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, inclosing a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Serres reporting the destruction of a Bulgarian band at Griplen, near Nevrokop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 203.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Serres, reporting the destruction of a small Bulgarian band at Griplen, in the Kaza of Nevrokop, on the 5th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 203.

Vice-Consul Théodorides to Consul-General Graves.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 7 Juin*, 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, le 5 courant, les autorités apprirent qu'une bande Bulgare, sous le commandement de Stoveff, dernièrement entrée de la Bulgarie, se cachait dans le village Griplen (Caza Nevrocop). Un détachement militaire cerna le village et une rencontre a eu lieu entre les soldats et les brigands abrités dans deux maisons ; à la fin les soldats brûlèrent ces deux maisons et Stoveff, avec six de ses partisans, ont été dévorés par les flammes ; de la part des Turcs deux ont été tués et un blessé.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. THÉODORIDES.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Serres, June* 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 5th instant the authorities heard that a Bulgarian band, under the command of Stoveff, which had lately come into the country from Bulgaria, was concealed in the village of Griplen (Kaza of Nevrokop). A detachment of soldiers surrounded the village, and an encounter took place between the soldiers and the brigands, who had taken shelter in two houses ; in the end the soldiers burned these two houses, and Stoveff, with six of his followers, was burnt ; of the Turks two were killed and one wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. THÉODORIDES.

No. 204.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 16, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, inclosing copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Serres reporting an encounter between a Bulgarian band and Turkish troops at Tsigarovo, in the Kaza of Melnik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 204.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency copies of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Serres reporting an encounter which took place on the 9th instant between a Turkish detachment and a Bulgarian band, under Sandansky, at Tsigarovo, in the Kaza of Melnik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 204.

Vice-Consul Théodorides to Consul-General Graves.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le* 11 *Juin,* 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, le 9 du mois courant, une rencontre a eu lieu près de Tzigarovo (Kaza Melnik) entre une bande Bulgare composée de vingt-cinq personnes, et commandée par Sandansky, et un détachement militaire. De la bande huit furent tués, et les autres prirent la fuite.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Serres, June* 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 9th instant an encounter took place near Tsigarovo (Kaza of Melnik) between a Bulgarian band of twenty-five, commanded by Sandansky, and a detachment of soldiers. Eight of the band were killed and the rest fled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

No. 205.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 16, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica reporting the operations carried out by a Turkish detachment against Greek and Bulgarian bands at Gevgeli and Yenijé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 13, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that the same detachment of Turkish troops which destroyed the Bulgarian band of Anton Yovan at Chernareka in the Kaza of Gevgeli on the 1st instant, when returning the following day to Gumenja encountered a Greek band of about fifty members, which was dispersed with a loss of four killed, among whom were two officers and a sergeant of the Greek army. These officers were Captain Moraïtis, whose alias while serving in Macedonia was "Captain Roumiliottis," and Lieutenant Frangopoulo, otherwise "Captain Scodra."

The Kaïmakam of Yenijé reports, by telegraph, that on the 11th instant four Bulgarian Komitajis were surrounded in the house of Goné Atanas at Kotchinovo,

when three were killed and one escaped wounded. A number of bombs and other explosives were found in the house, with which the authorities suppose an attempt was to be made on the town of Yenijé Vardar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 206.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 26.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received information from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub of an encounter between a Bulgarian band, numbering about 150 men, and some Turkish troops, which took place in the Palanka district on the 13th instant.

The fighting lasted for 10 hours, and the band is said to have lost 80 men killed, including their leader. The losses of the Turks were 2 officers and 9 men killed and 12 wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 207.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 26.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 20, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica reporting the capture of a Greek band at Dovista, in the Kaza of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 207.

Consul-General Graves to Sir N. O'Conor.

Sir, *Salonica, June 16, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Serres reporting the capture of eight Greeks with arms and ammunition at Dovista, in the Kaza of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 207.

Vice-Consul Théodorides to Consul-General Graves.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 14 Juin, 1905.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, hier, dans l'après-midi, le détachement militaire qui était en perquisition à Dovista a emmené ici huit jeunes gens, tous indigènes Grecs, avec 9 fusils Gras et 400 cartouches. Pendant la perquisition deux soldats se disputèrent, et l'un tira contre l'autre, et l'un des deux fut atteint mortellement.

Le Mutessarif de Serres, Rechad Bay, est de retour de Salonique, et il a repris la direction des affaires, car sa démission n'a pas été acceptée.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Serres, June* 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday afternoon the detachment of troops who were conducting a search at Dovista brought here eight young men, all Greeks by nationality, with 9 Gras rifles and 400 cartridges. During the search two soldiers quarrelled and fired on each other, one being mortally wounded.

The Mutessarif of Serres, Rechad Bey, has returned from Salonica, and has resumed the direction of his affairs, his resignation not having been accepted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. THÉODORIDES.

No. 208.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 20, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub reporting an encounter between a Servian band and Turkish troops at Petralitsa (Palanka).

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Vice-Consul Satow to Consul-General Graves.

Sir, *Uskub, June* 16, 1905.

IN my telegram of the 15th instant, I reported to His Majesty's Ambassador an encounter between troops and a band at Petralitsa in the Palanka Kaza.

My telegram, which was based on the first report from the local authorities, contained several inaccuracies, and the following is the correct version :—

On the 13th, about 9·30 A.M., the conflict began and continued for some ten hours. The band which was more than 100 strong, was composed of Servians and not, as at first reported, of Bulgarians.

In the course of the fighting the Adjutant Major Murad, the gendarmerie Lieutenant Abbas, and 9 soldiers and gendarmes were killed and 17 wounded, while the Serbs lost 40 killed. The remainder of the band escaped. Five houses were burnt by the Komitajis to cover their retreat.

The band is said to have been betrayed by the villagers, but in any case it is difficult for any band to escape observation owing to the system of military posts which Seifoullah Pasha has established.

It is noteworthy that during the past six weeks such encounters as have taken place have been with Servian bands, and this fact confirms the information which I have obtained that the Bulgarians have received strict orders to keep quiet and refrain from action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. E. SATOW.

No. 209.

Sir F. Elliot to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 19, 1905.

I LEARN on good authority that for about twenty-five days no armed men have crossed the frontier from Thessaly into Turkey; on the contrary, the stream has been setting the other way, and about ten or fifteen have returned daily. But officers of the Greek army on leave of absence have for some days been arriving at Volo in disguise and proceeding at once by the goods train at night to Kalabaka, whence they cross into Macedonia to organize and encourage the local Greek bands.

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I had heard from another source that the number of Greek officers in Macedonia had considerably increased of late.

The Requiem service for the two officers and the sergeant lately killed near Chernareka, as reported in my despatch of the 9th and Mr. Graves' of the 13th instant, was celebrated in the Cathedral of Athens yesterday in the presence of the Mayor of the town and of a considerable number of officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 210.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 28, 1905.

THE Greek Minister informed me to-day that he was instructed to bring to my knowledge that, according to intelligence received from Macedonia under date of the 24th June, the situation at Monastir had again become aggravated in consequence of the murders committed daily by the Bulgarians, of which the Greeks were the victims.

Not to mention the crimes which had taken place during the previous fortnight, two Greeks named Tanti and Passaioannou had been assassinated on the 23rd and 22nd June respectively, and the brother of the latter wounded. They all fell victims to their attachment to the Greek cause. At Monastir indifference was shown in the case of crimes committed against Greeks.

In presence of this state of affairs there was reason to fear that the Greeks would make reprisals on the Bulgarians which would gravely complicate the situation. When latterly the Greek Representatives were called upon to give explanations to the Great Powers with regard to the attitude of the Hellenic Government towards Macedonian affairs, the latter had declared that they would do all that was possible on their side to contribute towards the pacification of that unhappy province. They had, however, at the same time brought to the notice of the Great Powers the attitude of the revolutionary Bulgarian Committees who were unceasingly fomenting troubles, and they felt it to be their duty to remark that the agitation in Macedonia would have ceased of itself the moment that the Bulgarians abandoned their policy of aggression towards the Greeks.

The brief period of calm which ensued had been followed by a recrudescence of activity, as was shown by the crimes committed in the last few days at Monastir.

M. Métaxas said he was instructed to beg that I would consider the necessary measures for putting an end to this state of affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.